

Hafa Adai!

IPI, DOF talk of tax settlement. **PAGE 2**

Sex abuse of a minor case is dismissed. **PAGE 3**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 227

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2019

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'Ron Anderson left 2 days before searches'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ron Li Anderson, who is one of the reported owners of Legend Realty, left the CNMI two days before the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion executed search warrants on Saipan, a source disclosed over the weekend.

The source said that Anderson, who is a U.S. citizen, is believed to have left for China.

The United States has no extradition treaty with China. If true, that would put Ander-

son out of reach of American law enforcement. An extradition treaty refers to an agreement between two countries to surrender to each other per-

See RON on Page 4

FBI seized docs, computers at IPI office

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation seized heaps of documents from Imperial Pacific

International (CNMI) LLC's accounting office, along with several computers, during the

execution of a search warrant last Nov. 8, 2019.

The FBI, according to documents obtained by *Saipan*

See FBI on Page 4



This photo grab from Facebook shows a picture of Ron Anderson, right, and Alfred Yue, left, flanking Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at an undated and unnamed event.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Arrivals up 8% in October

Arrivals to the CNMI increased 8% to 34,670 in October 2019, compared to 32,108 visitors in October 2018, according to the latest numbers of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Citing its own numbers, MVA said Friday that arrivals from Korea grew 30%

in the month to 20,185 visitors.

Korea is facing an economic struggle due to the trade war between Korea and Japan, declining exports, and, to a lesser extent, trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

IPI reports of progress at resort site

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of last month, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Imperial Pacific Resort in western Garapan had 314 H2B Taiwanese workers and 150 H2B Mongolian workers.

IPI vice president for construction Eric Poon recently

informed the Commonwealth Casino Commission during a CCC board meeting that a

batch of Mongolian H2B workers are now on site, while another batch of Mongolian H2B workers will soon be brought in.

According to IPI's progress report obtained by *Saipan Tri-*

See IPI on Page 4

» **Construction of Phase 1 for resort hotel expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2019**



CIRCUS STUNT

Members of the audience gasp as Blake Wallenda, of the world-famous Wallenda family, which is known for their daredevil tightrope walking stunts, walks on a tightrope at one of the shows that the Super American Circus performed at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium over the weekend.

IVA MAURIN

Story on Page 5. More photos on Page 13

INSIDE



LOCAL

The CNMI has gained its first global McDonald's awardee in Jocelyn "Joyce" Asistores.

PAGE 6



LOCAL

The Shiko Gakuen Mission are on Saipan for their 33rd annual tradition.

PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

Taylor Swift may not perform at the American Music Awards and may have to put other projects.

PAGE 20



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



The Best Gaming Club in Saipan

WELCOME TO Fabulous SAIPAN VEGAS GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB

NOVEMBER PLAYER PROMOTIONS

BEER Pong Draw

Win \$250 on our Daily Hourly Draw
Saturday Mega Cash Draws
from 9:00pm-1:00am
on November 16, 23, & 30
with over \$17,500
of Cash and Vouchers to be won!

Come play today and be the next Big Winner!

Local

IPI, DOF talk of tax settlement

Both Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and the CNMI Department of Finance are in negotiation for a possible tax settlement covering some periods within fiscal years 2017 through 2019.

Saipan Tribune learned over the weekend that IPI is claiming that it is owed a tax credit based on its amended tax filings.

"We are very close to finalizing our agreement," said Finance Secretary David Atalig.

He noted that both IPI and the Department of Finance have already agreed in concept but not in a legal, official agreement yet.

Atalig noted that he cannot disclose at this time the amount that, according to IPI, the CNMI government owes.

"...Privacy and disclosure rules and regulations prevent me from sharing taxpayer information," he said, adding that he could not disclose the amount even to the

Legislature.

According to Atalig, IPI can only amend the Business Gross Revenue Tax it paid for April 2017 and onwards.

"When [IPI] submitted an amendment, it was around April 2019 so they can only go back to April 2017 to current," he told *Saipan Tribune*. He affirmed that IPI is claiming that they paid more than what they were supposed to in BGRT, according to an amended tax filing. (*Erwin Encinares*)

Temporary halt to 2,500 B&Bs eyed

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) is seeking to impose a moratorium on all bed-and-breakfast businesses on Saipan in a bid for the CNMI government to have a handle on how licenses and taxation are applied to these establishments.

Guerrero introduced House Local Bill 21-32 during last Nov. 12, 2019's session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation session. His bill seeks to impose a three-year moratorium on all bed-and-breakfast establishments on Saipan.

According to Guerrero's

bill, B&B's are being created on Saipan at a rate that makes it difficult to regulate and check if they are compliant with zoning laws and other business requirements.

He noted in the bill that there are about over 2,500 B&B's in the CNMI.

A B&B, according to Public Law 20-30, is a private residence or building with five or fewer rooms that are rented or hired out for tourists.

"The rapid establishment of such facilities makes it difficult for the enforcement division of the Department of

Finance to identify and ensure that such facilities are complying with zoning laws, appropriate licenses are obtained, and the hotel occupancy taxes are paid," he noted in the bill.

The moratorium prohibits the development, expansion, or establishment of any new B&B or similar facility for three years. It also disallows the lands approval, business license, building permit, construction permit, occupancy permit, or any approval for a new B&B.

The bill imposes a \$5,000 fine for the first offense and \$10,000 for the second and subsequent offenses. (*Erwin Encinares*)



Happy Thanksgiving

Costa
Terrace Restaurant

Enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving Buffet with all your Traditional Favorites!

Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet
Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019 | 11am - 2pm

Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet
Thursday, November 28, 2019 | 6pm - 9pm

\$40.00 Adults | \$20.00 Children
Local Resident Discount Available
20% Deposit Required for Reservations of 10+ guests

KEVIN'S
The Prime Rib & Seafood

Enjoy a savory 6-Course Thanksgiving Meal for the Whole Family!

November 28, 2019 | 6pm - 10pm

Thanksgiving Set A — \$65.00 per person
Thanksgiving Set B — \$55.00 per person

From Aqua Resort Club!

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
CALL (670) 322-1234
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS

MVA offshore firm targets 18% hike in Korea arrivals

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority's new offshore marketing company for South Korea

has set a target of 18% increase each year for Korean arrivals to the CNMI in the

next five years.

The vision is to have 226,770 Korean visitors next year in the CNMI and have at least 439,656 by 2024, according to Seijin Kim, account director of Tams Inc. Korea, in her presentation during MVA's general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.

Kim said their target for 2021 is to have 267,589 Korean visitors; 315,755 in 2022; and 372,590 in 2023.

Their core strategy is to position the Marianas as an

attractive destination for first-time travelers.

She said they will obtain beautiful and unique pictures of the CNMI through promotion, and build an iconic image of the Marianas.

Kim outlined promotional events with travel agencies and aggressively work with airlines like Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way to expand services and launch charter flights as new routes from Korean regional destinations.

She said the expected Korea outbound market in 2019 is 30

million, with millennials leading the travel trends.

Kim said Koreans prefer to travel with their family and friends at comfortable schedule and services. Japan is the top destination for Koreans, followed by China, then Vietnam, the U.S. mainland, Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, and Singapore.

Kim said the CNMI has a great potential for Korean travelers in their 20s, who are into sports activities, while its image as a family destination is stable.

Sex abuse of a minor case is dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the request of the Office of the Attorney General, the case against a 45-year-old man accused of sexually abusing a minor has been dismissed with prejudice.

That means the government can no longer re-file the case against Joseph Seman Epina.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho also vacated the jury trial in the case that was scheduled for Dec. 16, 2019.

Epina was charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace. He allegedly sexually abused a 12-year-old girl on Saipan on March 12, 2016.

In the government's motion to dismiss, assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery said the prosecution believes its evidence is enough to convict Epina but a review of other factors

supports the case's dismissal.

Last February, Epina's counsel, assistant public defender Heather M. Zona of the Office of the Public Defender, filed a motion that blamed the OAG for the "unwarranted delay" in the trial.

Zona filed a motion to dismiss the case for violation of Epina's right to a speedy trial. Zona said Epina has been forced to wait nearly three years in jail for his case to be resolved.

Zona said the defendant has been married to his wife for 22 years and they have four daughters. She said Epina and his family have suffered great-

ARMATECH

PABX Telephone
System Services
and Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

Over **\$172,000** in prizes won in the CNMI.

DRAW NUMBER 3999 **DRAW DATE** 11/16/2019

WINNING NUMBERS

22 11 32 31 28 34

Next draw JACKPOT \$2 MILLION **Get your tickets NOW!**

Visit our NEW website:
www.nmsalottery.com
Now available on Android and iOS devices.

ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

The Island Smiles Dental Plan available via your bi-weekly allotment

- Low Cost:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan) \$6.00 (Two-Person Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic and most experienced dentists in the CNMI. Really nice people!



**AWARD-WINNING DENTISTS
KIND AND GENTLE**

**DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE**

Paradise Dental



Hawaii Dental Service, TakeCare, Cigna and Staywell
Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome!

Call 234-4040
Middle Road, Gualo Rai,
across Chong's

Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com

www.paradisedentalspa.com [instagram.com/paradisedentalspa](https://www.instagram.com/paradisedentalspa)
[facebook.com/paradisedentalspa](https://www.facebook.com/paradisedentalspa)

2019 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT

STARTING AT \$22,995

41 MPG

- G2 2.5i Dohc 16-valve 4-cyl. Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission with Manual-shift and Sport Mode
- Skyactiv®, Rearview Camera5
- Remote Keyless Entry System
- Push Button Start
- 7" Full-color Touch Screen Display
- Dual Front Air Bags 7 with Seat Belt-use
- Bluetooth® 6 Hands-free Phone and Audio Capability

2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE

STARTING AT \$15,995

31 MPG

- Fuel-efficient, 3-cyl. Engine
- Automatic Transmission
- Back-up Camera
- 4-Wheels Abs
- 9 Airbags
- SmartPhone Link
- Display Audio

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store

\$500 SHOPPING SPREE!!

with the purchase of a new Mazda CX-5 Sport or Mitsubishi Mirage

GET :30 SECONDS IN OUR MONEY MACHINE

WITH EVERY NEW VEHICLE PURCHASE!

\$0 DOWN! no payments for 90 DAYS!

TRIPLE J MAZDA • HYUNDAI • MITSUBISHI

TEL: 234-7133 / 234-3051 | FAX: 234-3052

Beach Road, Chalan LauLau

MON-FRI: 8AM-5PM SAT: 8AM-5PM

triplejsaipan.com

*While supplies last. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other promotion or offer. Vehicles not exactly as shown. On approved credit. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500.

ARRIVALS

From Page 1

However, Asiana Airlines added a daily daytime flight beginning on Oct. 27 that will continue through late March 2020. Also, T'Way Air will begin a second daily daytime flights to Saipan on Nov. 21, which will also continue through late March 2020.

Arrivals from China were 15% lower at 11,671 visitors in October. The market is suffering from continued tension in Hong Kong, which provides direct connectivity with the Marianas for the Pearl River Delta region in mainland China. Hong Kong Airlines has suspended its service between Hong Kong, and the load factor of Hong Kong Express has also been negatively impacted. The September 2019 reduction to only 14 days of CNMI-Only parole for Chinese tourists to visit the Marianas has raised new concerns for the market. Furthermore, the exchange rate remained at high levels during the month, making it more expensive for Chinese visitors to visit the Marianas.

Visitor arrivals from Japan

jumped 46% to 487 visitors in October. Skymark Airlines has also announced the start of regular direct flights from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan beginning Nov. 29, 2019, and the market is anticipated to grow exponentially over the year. Bookings for the new flights began on Nov. 1, with Skymark offering promotional rates starting at \$38 one way plus fuel surcharge and tax. Approximately 40,000 visitors are expected from Japan in fiscal year 2020, based on

80% load factor on scheduled flights; this compares to 12,000 visitors from the source market in fiscal year 2019.

Economic highlights

Chinese travelers cut back on overseas travel and the growth of domestic trips also slowed during the Golden Week holiday in early October, as protests in Hong Kong and a weaker currency and economy discourage people from traveling out of China. The pullback continues the

trend of slumping visitor numbers affecting tourist destinations across the region and is another sign of how weak consumer demand is undercutting efforts by China's government to rebalance and stimulate the economy.

Japan's consumer price inflation fell to 0.2% year-on-year in September 2019 from 0.3% in the previous month and well below market expectations of 0.4%. It was the lowest inflation rate in seven months. (PR)



LITTERBUGS

Empty beer cans were seen yesterday morning scattered on the ground next to a bench near The Quartermaster tank on Saipan. Last July, a litter control apprehending officer from the Saipan Mayor's Office cited a man with a \$25 fine after he was caught illegally dumping trash in Koblerville. The Office of the Saipan Mayor is one of the government agencies mandated to enforce the Litter Control Law in the CNMI.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

IPI

From Page 1

bune from CCC last week, IPI had 74 H2B Mongolian workers as of Sept. 24.

Poon stated in that same progress report that the other H2B workers they had, as of last month, were 314 from Taiwan, 12 from Thailand, and 57 from Australia.

It is not clear how many Taiwanese H2B workers IPI currently has, considering that 157 of them protested last Nov. 6. IPI allegedly pressured them to resign from their jobs even if their H2B visas were not expiring until January 2020. There were reports that those who protested subsequently resigned and had al-

ready left the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune has repeatedly asked for an update about the status of those Taiwanese who protested, but IPI legal counsel Phillip Tydingco did not reply. Other IPI lawyers and management staff either refused to comment or did not reply.

As of last Sept. 24, IPI had 354 H2B Taiwanese workers.

Poon said they have 15 management staff and 107 others from local manpower agency, Fritz Pacific.

Excluding the 15 management staff, IPI had a total of 640 workers as of last month.

Poon said that construction of Phase 1 of the resort hotel is in progress and is expected to be completed on Dec. 31, 2019.

He said construction of Phase 2 of the tower hotel's level 3 and level 13 is in progress and is to be completed on June 30, 2020.

He said Phase 3 of level 2 VIP gaming and level 14 sky level started last June 1 and is expected to be completed on Sept. 30, 2020.

Poon said Phase 4 of the Beach Club started last Oct. 1 and will be completed on Dec. 31, 2020.

Poon said Typhoon Hagibis and Tropical Storm Bualoi interrupted IPI's construction job site for a week.

Since there were some damage in some of the exterior works at the resort hotel's suite terrace, the east wing was completed only at the end of October.

Poon said the Department of Public Works will grant them a conditional certificate of occupancy permit after DPW makes a final inspection of the east wing of the hotel's main lobby's level 1 and 2 offices.

Poon said the building façade cladding is in progress and hotel tower interior fit out pre-construction phase is in progress.

On external works, Poon said majority of the main forecourt has been completed, including the main water feature. He said secondary water feature installation work and rest of the stone work are in progress.

Poon said the resort hotel zone 1 main swimming pool earthwork is in progress.

Saipan Tribune also learned that Alfred Yue had at least a transaction with Legend Realty, which served as the broker in an assignment of a lease deal.

The office of Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC at IPI-owned Vestcor Commercial Plaza on Capital Hill was also among those reportedly searched by FBI. Yue is a consultant of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Yue used to work as managing director of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Other offices searched by the FBI were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' office on Capital Hill, and IPI's accounting office at Building I of the Marina Heights in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

such as petty cash funds, dated on or after Sept. 1, 2013.

FBI agents searched the office of Legend Realty in western Garapan last Nov. 7. As of yesterday, the office remains padlocked.

A source earlier disclosed that Legend Realty is 51% owned by a foreign company called Legend Giant Investment Limited, with an office in Hong Kong.

The principal of Legend Giant is believed to be named Donglin Wang. Anderson owns 49% of Legend Realty.

The FBI was also looking for all documents, records, and property related to Billion Ventures (CNMI) Limited or Legend Giant Investments Limited, Hong Kong dated on or after Sept. 1, 2013.

tate transactions and with regard to maintaining its LLC status.

According to court records, the items that the FBI searched last Nov. 7 and 8, include documents, records, and property that constitute evidence of violations of federal laws by Anderson, Alfred Chi-Yan Yue, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and his brothers, Vincent, Victorino, and Joaquin.

The items also include cash and items of significant value such as precious gems, metals, artwork, or jewelry that may constitute proceeds of crimes.

Among the many items searched were also documents relating to withdrawals authorized by Anderson from bank accounts over which he had signatory authority, or from internal sales, vaults, or funds

RON

From Page 1

sons who've been charged or convicted of an extraditable offense.

The source said Anderson is a friend of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC owner, Ji Xiabo.

The source said Anderson worked for IPI before opening Legend Realty, which handles leases for IPI's VIP clients.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Anderson and Legend Realty but, according to lawyer Michael Dotts, who represents Legend Realty on limited matters, there is no comment for now.

Dotts usually represents Legend Realty on specific real es-

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support group meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly support group meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker is Dr. Peter Brett, oncologist at the Commonwealth Health Center. His presentation will be on the roles of diet, physical activity and body weight among cancer survivors.

To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Water service outage today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for customers along the main road of Kagman (route 34) to the Laulau Bay area today, Nov. 18, 2019, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

CUC's water operations personnel will repair a damaged 8-inch water mainline on the westbound lane of Route 34 in Kagman. Motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area as the west bound of Route 34 will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>). (PR)

FBI

From Page 1

Tribune last week, were in possession of financial documents, accounting records, and even vendor payments dating as far back as 2014, when IPI was still called Best Sunshine.

According to a U.S. Department of Justice FBI receipt for property, which was nine pages long, the agency also seized Commonwealth tax payments, IPI journal entries, petty cash records, vendor payment checks, and many more.

The listing even included lease payments and agreements and "letters to Torres Brothers and other law firms"; "Alfred Yue payment document"; "Torres Brothers and Marianas Consultancy payments"; and even lease rental agreements and lease payments.

A total of 18 phones were also reportedly returned to IPI employees during the raid, according to the report.

In addition to the documents, the FBI also seized a total of 34 computer hard disk drives, 15 laptops, nine all-in-one CPUs, and several mini CPUs.

The FBI executed several search warrants on Saipan that included the Governor's Office, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; Legend Realty Saipan; the Torres Brothers' law office, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' home and vehicle.

The FBI, along with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, also visited the Commonwealth Casino Commission but CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero did not disclose the reason for

their visit.

Torres' chief of staff, Angel Demapan, said in a previous statement that all the information the FBI provided to the administration is that it was an investigation on "allegations."

"In an effort to preserve the integrity of the process, the administration continues to seek the community's patience and support to allow the system of justice to take its course," he said in a separate statement.

"We have provided them with all the information and access that they have asked for, with the intent of being completely transparent and helpful in the investigation," Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios noted in a press conference.

An IPI statement released late last Thursday said: "Our companies have nothing to hide and will cooperate with law enforcement authorities."

"[The governor], Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and the administration remain focused on continuing the operations of the government and ensuring that the delivery of public services remains unhindered. We continue to seek the community's patience to respect the integrity of the process and the systems of justice," Demapan noted in a statement Nov. 14, 2019.

Last Thursday, Saipan Tribune obtained a copy of the U.S. District Court's subpoena commanding the IPI records custodian to testify before a grand jury. The District Court published the order on Nov. 6, 2019.

A grand jury is a panel of 16 to 23 people that are randomly selected and ultimately decides whether there is a case to be pursued through an indictment, or a formal charge of a crime. Grand jury proceedings are not open to the public.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 68.24% average occupancy rate among its 11 member-hotels in October 2019. This is a 10% decrease for HANMI hotels compared

to October 2018.

A total of 51,627 of 75,657 available room nights sold during the month, compared to 54,971 of 72,634 available room night sold last October. Average room rates were

HANMI occupancy at 68% in October

\$143.93 compared to \$145.46 last October.

In the hotel industry, 80% occupancy is considered average.

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh said the latest numbers show that the Marianas tourism economy is still anemic.

She said everyone is looking forward to the start of direct flights between Japan and the Marianas by Skymark Airlines Inc. this month.

She hopes the CNMI government will give the Marianas Visitors Authority its full budget so it can continue to promote the CNMI in China and Korea.

HANMI is also concerned that the land leases of Fiesta

Resort & Spa Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan, which are expiring soon, have yet to be resolved. "If we are serious about economic sustainability, we cannot afford to lose these long-term investors, which would result in lost revenue, lost jobs, and loss of many other community benefits."

HANMI was established in 1985. (PR)

Circus fun on Saipan

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After seven back-to-back shows on Saipan, the Super American Circus wrapped up its fun and suspenseful shows last night, leaving the crowd holding their breaths and wanting more.

The circus performed at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which had to be closed and quickly converted into a circus, to provide for the needed space to accommodate the concessions and the crowds. Each show lasted two hours.

Wowing everyone were unicyclist Ivan, comedy jugglers Cristina and Alex, aerialists Vivian, Keren, and Montana, hula hoop artist Olena, and ringmaster Elaine Alcorn. In keeping with the "superhero" theme, all the performers were in superhero costumes.

Adults and children also had their mouths open wide in suspense, especially during Tammy Firefly's fiery performances, Martin Espana's daredevil act, Sasha's rolla

bolla, and Blake Wallenda's tightrope walk. Comic juggler and clown Olex Kartukov also had the crowd laughing with his crowd-sourced "jump rope" act.

"We haven't had a circus in years," said Buddy Igitol, who went to the circus with his daughter. "The last I remember was when I was a kid. We had something similar. It is nice to see the circus back in town. I am pretty sure everybody had fun. I myself enjoyed the show. My hands and my feet were sweating throughout the whole show."

The last time the Super American Circus visited Saipan was 10 years ago.

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation, with Joeten Enterprises, brought this year's circus to the CNMI.

Super American Circus presenter Cornell "Tuffy" Nicholas and his performers had nothing but great words for the island.

"The reception has been phenomenal," Nicholas said. "It has been fantastic. Such nice people coming to see the show and en-

joying it. It has been great."

One of the circus clown jugglers, Bing Bam Boom's Alexander Knapp, said it was an honor to perform for the Saipan crowd. "I love the Saipan crowd," Knapp said. "It is really

an honor to perform for resilient people, and in this space that they fixed up for us to do the show. It is just an honor to make people laugh and give people surprises that they would not necessarily expect."

EXPRESS
FINANCIAL

**has your
HOLIDAY
CASH!**

EXPRESS FINANCIAL is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.

Helping you succeed financially is our top priority.
In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.

**Close a loan this
Holiday Season
and receive a
\$15.00
Gift Certificate
redeemable at**

Customers Only
**Payless SuperFresh
& Truckload Store**

KFC
TACO BELL
Town House
A Subsidiary of Jones & Guerrero Company, Inc.

Your dependable money source

Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply

- OPTION 1** Call us direct at **670 235-6032** AND OUR FRIENDLY LOCAL STAFF WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR APPLICATION OVER THE PHONE.
- OPTION 2** Fill out the attached application and fax to **670-235-6040** and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.
- OPTION 3** Fill out the attached application, scan and email to **cccar6985users@carfinancial.com** and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.

QUICK APPLICATION

PRIMARY APPLICANT

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____
Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____

SECONDARY APPLICANT

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____
Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

Town House Shopping Center

Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (across Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
P.O. Box 504084, Saipan MP 96950 | Tel. (670) 235-6032

Detecting a leak: There are THREE ways to detect a gas leak (smell is the most common):



SMELL — To help you SMELL a gas leak, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is added to both natural gas and propane.
SEE — Near a leaking gas pipeline, you might SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation.
HEAR — A leaking pipeline, appliance, storage tank or cylinder (propane only) might make a hissing sound you can HEAR.

If you ever suspect a gas leak, leave the area immediately. (Do not touch or use anything electric on your way out—not even a light switch or telephone.)
Then, call your local gas provider or 9-1-1.

LP GAS
WUSHIN
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Celebrate Thanksgiving

Isla Café Restaurant

*Join us for a special
Thanksgiving Lunch!*

Thursday, November 28, 2019
11:00am~2:00pm

\$35/Adults - \$15.00/Children(4-11)

Reservations are required.
Please call 237-8742/43
Resident discount with valid CNMI ID

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Asistores wins global McDonald's award

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has gained its first global McDonald's awardee.

Jocelyn "Joyce" Asistores, general manager of McDonald's Middle Road, has been awarded the 2019 McDonald's Global Ray Kroc Award, which goes to the top 1% of McDonald's general managers all over the world who demonstrate superior performances.

McDonald's presents the Global Ray Kroc Award only every two years.

Asistores, who has been with the company since November 1994, is the first in the Marianas, and in the Ayuyu organization, to receive the award.

"It feels good to receive such an award but I want to give credit to the people who

made it possible for me," Asistores said. "There would be no award without my managers and crew because they are the ones who really work hard. I may be their leader, but they are the ones who work hard. Yes, I am getting this recognition, but the credit really is for them."

Originally from the Philippines, Asistores began her career with McDonald's in 1994 as crew, then went on to become a crew member, area manager, and in her current role as general manager.

"I am so proud of all the accomplishments Joyce has made thus far and I am confident in her abilities to accomplish much more," said area supervisor Joe Ayuyu Jr. "She is an inspiration to her team and everyone around her. Joyce embodies the brand Mc-

Donald's to the fullest and we are blessed to have her as part of our team. Cheers to 2020 and beyond."

McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu said that Asistores is a very dedicated person and has great people skills. "She is a great leader," she added.

In 2014, Asistores attended the McDonald's Hamburger University, a state-of-the-art training center for McDonald's managers and employees, in Chicago, Illinois, after which she was promoted to general manager for McDonald's Garapan. In August 2019, Asistores was promoted to general manager for McDonald's Middle Road. Currently, she manages a team of 59 employees.

As for her secret, Asistores said, "There is no special magic,

you just have to do what is right. ...It is not enough to just perform your duties. ...You have to enjoy your work, and enjoy the people you work with."

With more than 36,000 McDonald's restaurants worldwide, Asistores joins the top 1% of general managers who demonstrate superior performances throughout the McDonald's system.

"It feels good that you influence others by showing them

the right thing to do," Asistores added.

The Global Ray Kroc Award is designed to identify and celebrate the chain's best restaurant managers across the world. Each nominee goes through a vigorous nomination process reviewed by field office HR, field operations teams, and nationally. Winners are selected based on a mix of business results and leadership behaviors.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan is locally owned and operated by franchisee's Joe and Marcia Ayuyu. First opened in 1993, the organization includes eight McDonald's restaurants: two on Saipan and six in Guam. In 2016, the Ayuyu's acquired all McDonald's restaurants in Guam and the company remains one of the largest employers in the Marianas Islands.

PSS honors E-Land's environmental initiative



From left to right: Public School System Distance Education program manager Lorraine Catienza, assistant general manager of Kensington Hotel Saipan Ginger Choi, E-Land Group CSR facilitator Lindsay Ahn, E-Land Saipan president Matthew Park, PSS Cooperative Education program coordinator Brandon Nicholas, and PSS Instructional Technology & Distance Learning director Dr. Bobby Cruz.

CONTRIBUTE PHOTO

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System surprised E-Land last Saturday at the opening ceremony for its Environmental Youth Alliance at Kensington Hotel Saipan's Queens Club with an award that recognized its efforts in challenging students into thinking critically about how to be better stewards of the environment.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of the PSS Instructional Technology & Distance Education Program; Brandon Nicholas, coordinator of the Cooperative Education program; and Lorraine Catienza, Distance Education program manager presented E-Land Group Saipan president Matthew Park with the award, who said that instilling the knowledge of keeping a sustainable environment has always been a goal of the E-Land Group.

Noting the challenges that the CNMI faced after Super Typhoon Yutu hit in October 2018, Park said that investing in challenging students to become better stewards of the environment is a company priority.

E-Land usually hosts the opening ceremony of the Environmental Youth Alliance, which is a student-driven educational program initiated by 11 school groups to promote sustainable environmental protection.

E-Land Group Corporate Social Responsibility manager Lindsay Ahn told *Saipan Tri-*

bune that this get-together is held every school year and the opening ceremony gathers all the school clubs where they share ideas about sustainable environmental protection.

"It varies from the school to school. Some schools focus on beach cleanups, community cleanups, while others focus on schoolwide campaigns to promote recycling and reduce the use of [plastic products]," Ahn said.

E-Land funds each group with a \$500 donation each month until the end of May to

help fund these environmental initiatives.

Ahn noted that one of her favorite projects from previous years was from Saipan Southern High School. SSHS students created a Coral Watch Program, where they helped monitor corals for signs of bleaching and send the results to a research center in Australia.

Ahn was also recognized last Saturday for her leadership in putting this program together between CNMI schools and E-Land.

SHRM meeting on Thursday

The Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter will have its general membership meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, beginning at 8am. The guest speaker will be Jenna Grambort, trial attorney in the Immigrant and Employee Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Grambort works to enforce the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Prior to joining IER, Grambort worked as a judicial law clerk at the U.S. District Court in Colorado, and as a staff attorney at a legal aid organization in California. Grambort graduated from Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and is admitted to the state bars of California and Colorado.

Grambort will be presenting to SHRM members and interested members of the public helpful information on the INA's anti-discrimination provision. She will provide helpful information on how to avoid employment discrimination based on citizenship status and national origin.

The results of the election for the 2020 CNMI SHRM board members will also be announced.

This meeting is open to the public and includes a breakfast buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. (PR)



Jocelyn Asistores, fourth from left, poses with the McDonald's team in Middle Road. Asistores recently won the McDonald's Global Ray Kroc Award, making her among the top 1% of general managers around the world who demonstrate superior performance in their McDonald's restaurants, and throughout the McDonald's system.

IVA MAURIN

ART MAN CORPORATION



- Sewer Pumping
- Snake Wiring
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Leaching Field
- Handling Recyclable Wastes

PMB 122 Box 10000 MP96950
Email :artmancorporation@gmail.com
Tel # : (670) 234-8079 / 287-8079

SM ENTERPRISES, LLC HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTAL

OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- Moving Services
- Land Clearing
- Tree Removal/Clearing

LIST OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

- 50T Crane
- 25T Boom Truck
- 7T Boom Trucks
- Dump Truck
- Sky Truck / Bucket Truck
- Backhoe
- Tractor & lowboy
- Track Mini Excavator
- Wheeled Excavator
- Track Excavator
- Forklift
- Telescopic Handler
- Skid Steer Loader

Across Saipan Vegas,
Chalan Pale Arnold Road
Office No: 235-7635
Email: smelcsaipan@gmail.com

Open everyday of the year, providing prescription medication and healthcare essentials to the people of the CNMI for over 23 years.

PHI
Pharmacy

Diabetes
Shopper
GOOD NEIGHBOR
PHARMACY

Thanksgiving Sale

50% OFF
ON SELECTED
ITEMS

25% OFF
ALL OTC ITEMS

30% OFF
SUPPLEMENTS,
VITAMINS & SPORTS
NUTRITIONAL
PRODUCTS

NOVEMBER 11-30, 2019

Hospital Supplies • Diabetes Products

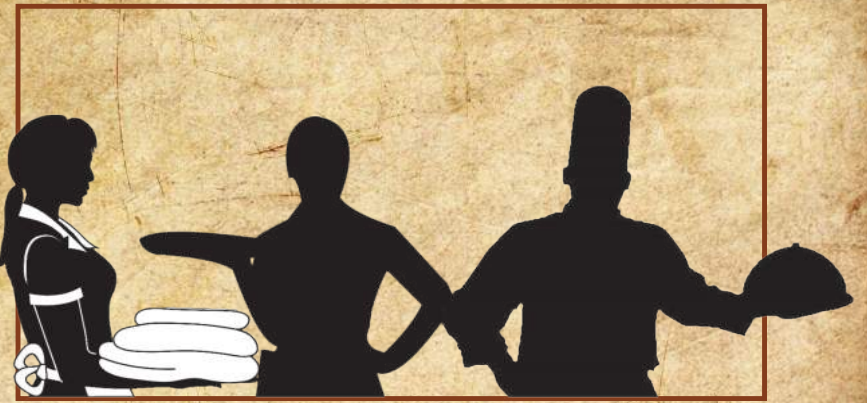
Open everyday of the year, providing prescription medication and healthcare essentials to the people of the CNMI for over 23 years.

Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center)

Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 | 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm • Sat - Sun: 8am - 4pm

Visit us on www.facebook.com/phiparmacy
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

WANTED



SEASONAL/TEMP-TO-HIRE FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME

*Stewards

*Laundry Attendant

*Room/Public Attendant

*Cooks

*Building Maintenance/Gardener



Bring your Resume and Active Food Handler's
(for Cooks and Stewards)

Competitive Salary*

For inquiries, please contact the Human Resources office at (670) 234-7976

Must be able to legally work in the CNMI (Saipan) without needing a working visa.



CASH for COLLEGE



For Spring 2020 Semester

ONE-TO-ONE HELP!

Attendees of the **FREE** workshop will be provided with personal assistance in completing forms for the:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- CNMI Scholarship
- SHEFA
- Teach Grant
- Other Financial Aid

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019

The workshop will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm. The workshop will be held at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus

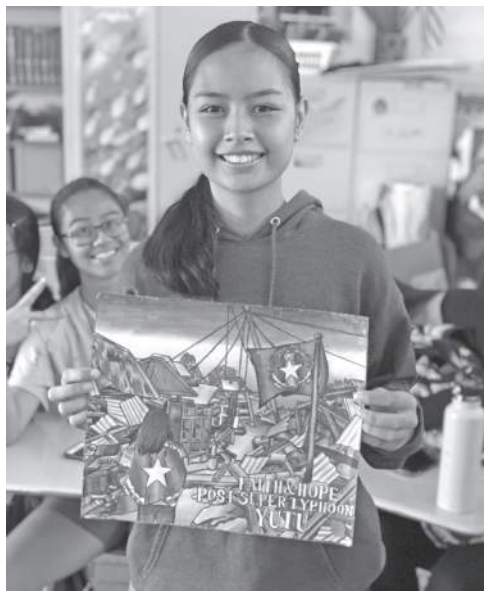


www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
www.twitter.com/GoProa
www.instagram.com/NMC.Proa

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit marianas.edu for details or call the NMC Financial Aid Office at (670) 237-6792 or email fao@marianas.edu.

Salim and Viray win Pacifica art contest



Irish Viray, Category 2 winner, poses with her winning artwork.



Selina Salim, Category 1 winner, poses with her winning artwork.

An 11-year-old student at Brilliant Star School, Selina Salim, and Saipan Southern High School's sixteen-year-old Irish Viray were named winners of the 2019 Pacifica Art Contest hosted by Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

Salim and Viray each received a \$300 cash prize and various art supplies.

Their winning pieces, which highlighted the CNMI's resilience after Super Typhoon Yutu, will be featured in Pacifica Insurance's marketing campaigns for the holidays and in the upcoming year.

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. president Shirley Sablan and marketing coordinator Samantha Sikayun paid a surprise visit to the two at their schools last week to announce the contest's winners.

Salim won first place in the 6-11 age division (1st to 6th grade), while Viray won first

place in the 12-17 age division (7th to 12th grade).

There were over 300 submissions: 100 plus entries for the 6-11 age division and 200 plus for the 12-17 age division.

"I was blown away by the level of talent during this year's art contest. Our judges had the most difficult task of choosing just two out of the many," said Sablan. "On behalf of everyone at Pacifica, I would like to thank the judges, school administrators and teachers for helping us ensure the success of our contest."

Students were asked to create and submit an original art piece, including the slogan "Faith & Hope Post Super Typhoon Yutu." Art pieces were judged on the criteria of creativity and originality, quality of art piece, clarity of theme, and presentation.

The artwork of the top five

winners will be made available for viewing on Pacifica's art contest web page (www.pacificains.com/artcontest) and the company's Facebook social media page ([facebook.com/pacificainsuranceunderwriters](https://www.facebook.com/pacificainsuranceunderwriters)).

This year's judging panel included Youth Affairs Office special assistant Monique Boyer Sablan; 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Concepcion Cabrera; and Stellar Marianas national director Crispin Deleon Guerrero.

"Having different opportunities for students to showcase their abilities, talents, and comprehension of current events happening throughout our island is important. Super Typhoon Yutu really took a toll on our community and to see that reflection of hope and faith to overcome throughout their pieces of art was very special. I thank Pacifica Insur-

ance for continuing this awesome opportunity and I look forward to supporting many more to come," said Monique Boyer Sablan.

"The creations of those who participated in this contest were amazing. I applaud everyone for sharing their talent of their reflection of Super Typhoon Yutu," said Deleon Guerrero. "I can't wait to see these art pieces displayed not only here in

the Marianas but worldwide as well. We are definitely 'Marianas Strong.'"

"Thank you, Pacifica Insurance for allowing me to be a part of your annual art contest. This year was especially special because it was dedicated to those who suffered through Super Typhoon Yutu, and by judging the incredible art pieces submitted by our youth, I felt in my heart the pain and loss

that were endured during this difficult time. It gave me the feeling that no matter any difficult time, as long as we work together as a community, we will remain strong and overcome any obstacle together," said Cabrera.

For more information about the contest, call (670) 234-6267/7722/7310 or email piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance is located at the Joeten Center in Susupe. (PR)

Japan firm suing for alleged unauthorized use of its logo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company in Japan is suing two companies and their owner on Saipan for allegedly using its logo without its permission.

Yoshitsu Co. Ltd. is suing American Create Beauty Corp., American Dong Sheng Corp., Weidong Guo, and 10 unnamed agencies/persons for trademark counterfeiting, trademark infringement, false designation of origin and fake descriptions and representations, unfair or deceptive trade act or practice, and trademark infringement.

Guo is the president and owner of both American Create and American Dong Sheng.

YST, through counsel Cong Nie, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold American Create, American Dong Sheng, Guo, and co-defendants to pay up to \$2 million for each trademark that they have counterfeited and/or infringed.

The plaintiff is demanding

attorney's fees and court costs.

YST also asked the court to stop the defendants from using the trademark and to stop the defendants from any conduct that could confuse or deceive YST's customers or injure its reputation.

The plaintiff wants the court to declare that the defendants have violated the Lanham Act and have engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices under the CNMI Consumer Protection Act, and have engaged in trademark infringement under the common law of the CNMI.

According to Nie in the complaint, YCT is the sole owner of a design trademark that read "Tokyo Seikatsukan" in Japanese, and translates to "Tokyo Lifestyle Store" in English.

Nie said the characters of the design can be understood by a person who speaks either Japanese or Chinese.

Nie said the trademark is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

YST started using the

trademark in 2016 by opening and operating a chain of drugstores in Japan and using the trademark to identify its stores.

In April 2018, Nie said, YST granted a revocable, non-exclusive license to American Create Beauty and American Dong Sheng to use the trademark in the U.S.

Nie said that American Create Beauty and American Dong Sheng then started operating two drug and cosmetic stores in Garapan, one on Coral Tree Avenue and another on Beach Road.

Nie said that that license to use the trademark was revoked last Feb. 6, 2019, effective March 6, 2019. As a result, the lawyer said, starting on March 6, 2019, the two companies no longer have YST's permission to use the trademark.

However, Nie said, to date, neither American Create Beauty and American Dong Sheng have stopped using the logo and have still not taken down the logo from their stores or their van.

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:45am, in the PHEPP Conference Room.

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
- Credential Privileges

New Applicants:

 - Dr. Dimitris Gerothanassis
 - Dr. Marius Popii
 - Thomas Culwell, PA
 - Elizabeth Willetts, PA
 - Dr. Dayne Piercefield
 - Dr. Mark Wallace

Renewal Applicants:

 - Dr. Martin Rohringer
- New Business

A. Election of Officers
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.
- Announcement
- Adjournment

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-001

SUBMISSION DATE: December 18, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"Topographic and As-Built Survey
of Natibu Recreational Sports Facilities,
Precinct IV, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT** WILL BE HELD ON **December 9, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DECEMBER 13, 2019**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cnminmhc/>
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE
(11/18/19)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) would like to inform the General Public that our NMHC Central Office in Garapan will be "CLOSED" on November 27, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to conduct professional development training. The NMHC Field Office in Rota will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on November 27, 2019. The NMHC Field Office in Tinian Field Office will remain open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our NMHC Central Office in Garapan will be open to accept transactions from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on November 27, 2019.

If you may have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

NEH chair: I do not believe the media is the enemy

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

National Endowment for the Humanities chair Jon Parrish Peede met with the CNMI press last Thursday for a casual discussion on the role of the media, as well as the challenges members of the CNMI press face everyday to deliver the news.

Peede, who just came from Guam and Hawaii, was on island as part of his exploration to learn more about what the Pacific Humanities Councils are offering in their communities. The Northern Marianas Humanities Council hosted him on this trip.

Peede, who comes from a media and publishing background and is big on the role of media in the community, spoke about fake news, opinion-editorials, neutrality of reporters, and his experience in magazine journalism.

When asked about his opinion on fake news, Peede said, "It is not a term I would use."

"I have, in a large part of my career throughout my government services, have had strong positive interactions with the media. ...I do not believe the media is the enemy," he added.

Peede said the least accurate statement he has experienced in his career as a government official are op-eds (opinion pieces like columns and letters to the editor)—primarily unsigned op-eds.

He also talked about the changing opinion of the public about members of the press due to social media.

"The more that a member of the media expresses his or her personal identity through

FARAH YOUNIS

National Endowment for the Humanities chair Jon Parrish Peede, seated center, poses with members of the CNMI press at a Lunch with the Press event last Thursday at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room in Oleai.

social media, I think people think that spills over into their journalism. I don't personally [think] that's always the case, but with the scrutiny we have, it makes it much harder."

Peede also advocates a rigorous evidence-based journalism, investigative journalism, believing that a thoughtful, considerate, reported piece may lead the readers to make a decision on an issue without making them feel being directed.

The meeting with the press ties with NMHC's recent grant application to showcase the value of news media, and to get the opinion of the community on news sources that can be trusted.

"Our news media organizations here are important partners," executive director Leo Pangelinan said. "Journalism and media are very much an important aspect [of a community]. ...It is the convener, the distributor. It is the water in humanities."

Before the meeting, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang presented Peede with a souvenir Animu for the NEH chairman "to always remember the CNMI."

Aside from meeting with the press, Peede also had a dialogue with about 120 high school students, and visited the Guma' Higai at the Civic Center in Susupe.



FUEL TECHNOLOGY
Synergy

New and improved gasoline.

With Mobil's new and improved Synergy gasoline, formulated for improved fuel economy, you can get more out of your journeys. Try our Synergy™ Supreme⁺, formulated with RON95⁺, the highest octane gas on island. Drive in and experience our redesigned stations to fuel up and go further.



Energy lives here™

Mobil

An ExxonMobil Brand

For more information, please call our toll free hotline at 1-866-486-7751 Monday through Friday from 10am to 7pm. All trademarks used herein are trademarks or registered trademarks of Exxon Mobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries. Our best ever gasoline contains a new additive that offers detergency and deposit clean-up better than all previous Synergy gasoline. Other fuel benefit claims are based on comparison to ordinary unadditized fuel. Actual benefits may vary depending on various factors including, without limitation, engine type, driving style and fuel previously used.

*Research Octane Number is the numerical rating of knock resistance for a fuel during acceleration, which is a component of the Octane number posted on the pump. It is not the Octane rating itself, so it will not be the number you see when you are at the pump.

Midea® ELECTRIC
Thanksgiving
SALE

5%-50% OFF

New Arrival on Hot Sale

**MIDEA AIRCONDITIONING
AUX BRAND AIRCONDITIONING
FREEZER
REFRIGERATOR
WASHER
WATER DISPENSER
LED ITEMS
FAUCETS
HARDWARE
HOME APPLIANCES
RECHARGEABLE SPEAKER ETC.**

All rechargeable speakers have bluetooth.
Lowest price is down to \$13.99

HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING

Located at CK across the U.S. Post Office

Phone: 234-0680 / 285-0680 Fax: 234-0688
For more info, check us at the store.
INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 226

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

It's the guns. It's always the guns

Authorities are still trying to figure out exactly what transpired Thursday morning at Saugus High School in Santa Carita, where a shooting left two students dead at last count. Four others were reported injured, including the suspected gunman, described as a 16-year-old boy now hospitalized after apparently shooting himself.

The tragedies compound, and the grief is visceral. But there is no shock, really, outside the small circle of people directly affected by the gunfire. Because we have seen this too many times before—and we are destined to repeat it for the foreseeable future because we, as a society, choose to let paralysis overwhelm public safety.

It's not a leap to say that no 16-year-old should have ready access to a firearm outside the immediate supervision of an adult. Yet each year, about 1 million students show up at school carrying a firearm. Since 2010 there have been 142 mass shootings committed by people age 17 and younger.

There will certainly be an investigation into where this weapon came from, whether an adult failed to lock it up, whether there were any hints of the violence to come, whether school security was adequate. All of that will get sorted out. But in the end, the availability of the gun remains, and that is the root of our gun violence problem.

This is the 39th mass shooting (that is, a shooting in which at least four people were wounded) in California this year, bringing the statewide total to 53 people killed and 158 injured. And this in a state with some of the most stringent gun control laws in the country. Nationwide, an additional 354 people have died, with 1,321 injured.

So how do we address this? Policy debates haven't worked. Legislative fixes—few and far between nationwide—have been insufficient. The gun lobby and Second Amendment hard-liners shake their heads and say, nope, this isn't on us. It's mental illness. Or it's this or it's that but, Lord, no, it's never the guns.

Except it's always the guns. And the bigger and badder the firearm, the worse the carnage.

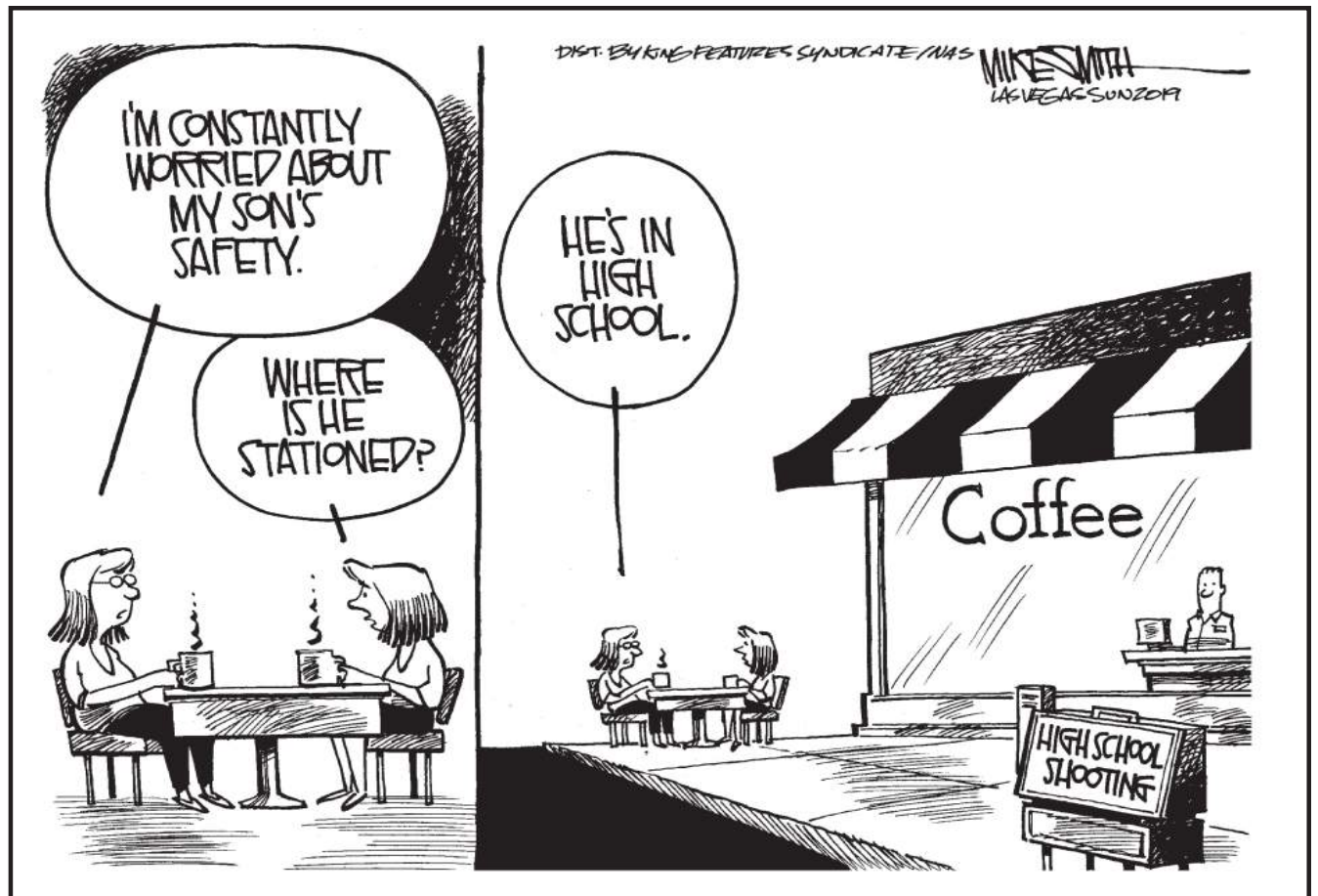
We've seen it in incidents large and small. The massacres at a Las Vegas country music concert, in churches in South Carolina and Texas, at schools and work sites scattered all across the country. But also gun-related killings in homes, in cars, on streets. The Gun Violence Archive lists more than 13,000 people nationwide shot to death so far this year, with 21,000 additional people killing themselves with firearms.

That's more than 34,000 deaths in which a firearm was involved. In just one year. Over the last five years, about 72,000 people were shot to death, excluding suicides. That's nearly the capacity of the Los Angeles Coliseum. If you're going to include suicides, tack on more than 100,000 more deaths.

So today, and tomorrow, and for the foreseeable future, the grieving will be done in Santa Clarita. Two weeks ago it was in Long Beach, where someone shot up a Halloween party, killing three people and wounding nine others.

Which has to have us all wondering—where will this grief descend next? And why do we tolerate it?

(c) 2019 Los Angeles Times



Making it far more costly to apply for citizenship

A quiet Friday before the long Veterans Day weekend was apparently as good a time as any for the Trump administration to unveil its latest assault on immigrants: rules changes designed to deter those legally here from acquiring their rightly earned citizenship.

The proposed new rules direct United States Citizenship and Immigrant Services, or USCIS—the arm of our immigration system that is supposed to service and welcome, not deport or detain—to significantly raise the fees for the citizenship application. This and a range of other proposed changes to fees were to be published for a 30-day comment period starting Nov. 14, half the usual time allotted for public input.

Under the proposal, the cost to naturalize would rise from \$725 to \$1,170 for a single application, hitting a level that totals about a month's worth of gross income for an immigrant making the federal minimum wage. Recognizing the burden that even the lower fee had posed for low-income immigrants, USCIS has had a fee-waiver (and partial fee-waiver) system in place that was strengthened and extended by the Obama administration.

The new rules would eliminate a reduced-fee option for applications from families with income between 150% and 200% of the poverty level and almost completely eliminate waivers for everyone else.

The official rationale for the reworked fees and waiver system is that USCIS needs to enhance its revenue to cover its costs. The projected need requires a total revenue increase of around 20%, a figure that hardly justifies a more than 60% hike in the cost of naturalization for most applicants.

Moreover, the Trump administration is proposing to direct more than \$200 million from USCIS' enhanced earnings to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, money that could be used to promote immigrants taking up citizenship rather than to chase down their less documented counterparts.

What's behind the shifts? In the official filing, the Department of Homeland Security suggests that previous naturalization fees were set below full cost recovery to "promote naturalization and immigrant integration." In arguing for the proposed fees—which would basically yield a profit for USCIS—DHS publicly frets that it worked, expressing concern about "the significant increase" of citizenship application forms in recent years.

This worry about new Americans clamoring to naturalize runs against a traditional bipartisan consensus that lawful permanent residents should be encouraged to take the next step to full civic engagement. Business leaders have been strongly on board the naturalization bandwagon, particularly given the evidence of economic benefits to the broader society when people become citizens.

A series of studies by USC's Center for the Study of Immi-

By MANUEL PASTOR

Los Angeles Times

Manuel Pastor is a professor of sociology and director of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at USC.



grant Integration showed that previous fee hikes had a significant negative impact on naturalization rates and tended to disproportionately impact lower-income and Latino immigrants.

In particular, our work at USC showed that what really made the difference for an immigrant deciding to naturalize was the difference in cost between the citizenship fee and the less expensive charge to renew a green card. So it's telling that USCIS is proposing to reduce the cost of a green card by 9%, nearly tripling the price wedge between remaining a lawful permanent resident and becoming a U.S. citizen.

This is a plan destined to lead to fewer immigrants becoming citizens, which may be the point.

The highly respected USCIS is being asked to make a change that will have clear political impact: Immigrants—who tend to lean liberal and Democratic—would be less likely and less able to gain the right to vote. The move is reminiscent of the Ukraine scandal in which the traditionally apolitical bureaucracy of the State Department was pressured to contort itself to serve partisan purposes.

After all, a recent New York Times analysis of the Virginia elections—in which Democrats took full control of both statehouses—suggests that suburban voters were critical. Important among those swing suburbanites were naturalized immigrants who viscerally rejected Trump's xenophobic rhetoric; as one voter put it: "The way he speaks, you get the feeling that you are separate. This is not what we signed up for in America."

The lessons of Proposition 187 are clear to many observers of California's recent history: Immigrants angry over the 1994 attack on immigrant rights naturalized, voted and helped turn the state blue. Given the wreckage of Republicanism in the Golden State, some might conclude that it would be best to make peace with new Americans, particularly as they and their descendants continue to grow as a share of our population.

But another possible route is to make it harder to naturalize and vote. This may be consistent with a larger Republican effort to disenfranchise the changing electorate—consider the spate of

See MAKING on Next Page

How Medicare can help you manage pain

If you have Medicare, there are covered options to help you manage pain safely and effectively.

Medicare covers prescription pain medications under Part D. In addition, Medicare Part B (medical insurance) helps pay for services that may help you manage your pain with less reliance on drugs, such as:

- Physical therapy;
- Occupational therapy;
- Manual manipulation of the spine (when medically necessary);
- Behavioral health services.

Part B helps pay for medically necessary outpatient physical therapy and outpatient occupational therapy. And Medicare no longer limits how much it pays for medically necessary outpatient therapy services in one calendar year, so beneficiaries can get the number of visits they need.

Medicare doesn't cover other services or tests ordered by a chiropractor, including X-rays, massage therapy, and acupuncture.

(If you think your chiropractor is billing Medicare for chiropractic services that aren't covered, you can report suspected Medicare fraud at <https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/help-fight-medicare-fraud/how-report-medicare-fraud>.)

Besides a yearly depression screen, Medicare can also cover behavioral health integration services like psychiatric collaborative care, and chronic and complex care management. Inpatient treatment and professional services can be provided by physi-

cians, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, nurse practitioners/specialists, and physician assistants.

Prescription opioids like hydrocodone and oxycodone can be used effectively to help relieve moderate-to-severe pain. Your doctor may prescribe opioids following surgery or an injury, or for certain chronic health conditions.

These medications are an important part of treatment but they carry serious risks. If you're using opioids for chronic pain, ask your doctor if you might also need a prescription for naloxone, an overdose-reversing drug that is covered by Medicare. Before starting or while taking opioids, talk with your doctor about all of your pain treatment options. Your doctor should tailor treatment according to your personal needs.

Some Medicare Part D drug plans have certain rules to help you use opioids safely. You can get more information on drug plan coverage rules at <https://www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/what-medicare-part-d-drug-plans-cover/drug-plan-coverage-rules>.

If you're in a Part D drug plan and take medications for different medical conditions, you may be eligible for a free Medication Therapy Management program. This program helps you and your doctor make sure that your medications are working to improve your health.

For most Medicare-covered pain management services, you pay 20 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for visits to your doctor or other healthcare provider to diagnose or treat

By **GREG DILL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



your condition. The Part B deductible (\$185 in 2019) applies.

If you get your services in a hospital outpatient clinic or hospital outpatient department, you may have to pay an additional copayment or coinsurance amount to the hospital.

For more information on safe and effective pain management, visit:

■ Medicare: <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/pain-management> or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

■ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/pain-management-options/index.html>.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/patients/options.html>.

■ Administration for Community Living: <https://acl.gov/programs/addressing-opioid-crisis>

Disney+ ruins classics with new trigger warnings

I adored the story of Cinderella as a child. The prospect of having a man so in love with me that he'd criss-cross the kingdom searching for my size 6 foot was heady stuff. It never occurred to me that Cindy was oppressed by the patriarchy or that she should just buy her own darn pair of shoes.

Similarly, I was untroubled by the fact that Snow White was victimized by her stepmother, or lived with a variety of short men to whom she was not married. While the scenario seemed to present a negative view of both blended families and female sexuality, my 8-year-old psyche survived unscathed.

I emerged from that Disney-centric childhood with happy memories and a deep appreciation for the power of imagination.

Sadly, the current employees of Disney must think of me as some aberration, because they have decided to provide disclaimers with their new streaming service, Disney+, which hit the market this week. Whenever someone clicks on classic content, they will find this language:

"This program is presented as originally created. It may contain outdated cultural depictions."

The disclaimer is aimed primarily at works that contain racial and ethnic stereotypes, like the Siamese cats in "Lady and the Tramp" and "Dumbo," which includes a version of black face. (It's also worth noting that Disney+ is not streaming "Song of the South," a film that has been widely criticized for racist portrayals of black people.) Given the focus on cultural sensitivity in today's society, it's not difficult to understand why Disney would want to neutralize the negative impact of its masterpieces without actually tinkering with the works themselves.

In fact, Disney deserves credit for not censoring the films and cartoons, and tailoring them to meet 21st century sensibilities. John Legend and Kelly Clarkson recently recorded an updated version of the Christmas song "Baby It's Cold Outside" in recognition of the #MeToo movement and out of a desire not to offend those who said it conjured images of rape. But instead of improving the flirtatious holiday standard, they sexualized it even more by adding the line "It's your body and your choice," making what was a clever back-and-forth between two adults into a primer on consent.

At least Disney isn't making Cinderella open her own shoe

manufacturing company or celebrating Snow White's sexual liberation with a scene where she distributes condoms to the dwarves.

Perhaps that cautionary language could be helpful to parents who think that some of the imagery might confuse their children, particularly in this day and age where gender is a matter of opinion, race is still a controversial subject, and sexual stereotypes are forbidden.

But I can't get my head around the idea that the stories that gave me such joy as a child are, to some people, harmful enough to warrant a cautionary warning. It's one thing to acknowledge that we made mistakes in the past, and to seek a reckoning with our history. It is quite another to caution people at the outset that the magnificent piece of art that they are about to see is actually riddled with racist, sexist and "phobic" tropes. This sets the viewer up to actually watch out for those troublesome details,

Sanctions against North Korea hurt women

The policy of the United States toward North Korea can be summed up succinctly: Sanctions, sanctions and more sanctions. The U.S. believes its policy of "maximum pressure" will cause North Korea to denuclearize, but it appears to be having the opposite effect, hardening North Korea's resistance and strengthening its resolve to keep pursuing its nuclear ambitions.

Not only have the "maximum pressure" sanctions applied since 2016 failed to change policies in Pyongyang, they have led to grave human costs.

New research commissioned by Korea Peace Now!, a women-led global campaign to end the Korean War, concludes that recent United Nations' Security Council sanctions are severely affecting the civilian population, impeding the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid, causing a sharp decline in foreign trade and pushing the economy into a recession.

These impacts are especially hard on women, who comprise 89% of those working in North Korea's burgeoning retail trade. As observed in other sanctioned countries, when local market activity declines, women lose their income as merchants, making it more difficult for them to feed their families and increasing their vulnerability to violence and exploitation, including sex trafficking.

In fact, some sanctions explicitly target industries dominated by female workers. In 2017, for example, the U.N. Security Council banned textile exports from North Korea; women represent 82% of workers in that country's textile and apparel industries.

Sanctions also significantly hamper the work of international humanitarian organizations in North Korea, tying up their funding and preventing or delaying shipments of badly needed humanitarian goods. The sanctions have blocked the transfer of medical appliances and caused shortages of life-saving medicines.

Last year, due to sanctions-related delays and funding shortfalls, the U.N. Population Fund reached only 1% of the 341,500 pregnant women it was hoping to provide with emergency repro-

By **CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**

Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



and threatens to ruin the viewing experience.

Isn't it at all possible that the little girl who sees the handsome prince on bended knee with the crystal slipper will both sigh with delight, and one day grow up to be president? Must every childhood memory be tweaked so that it fits the evolved narrative?

Can't we just enjoy the movie?

By **MARIE O'REILLY**

Tribune News Service

Marie O'Reilly is an expert on gender, peace and security issues and a co-author of The Human Costs and Gendered Impact of Sanctions on North Korea.



ductive kits. It is estimated that 72 pregnant women and 1,200 infants likely died as a result.

The U.N. Security Council claims its sanctions are not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population. The body's sanctions committee can grant case-by-case humanitarian exemptions, but, to date, these efforts have been insufficient to prevent negative impacts.

Sanctions significantly degrade women's economic status and threaten their social rights, particularly in developing countries. While men also suffer economically under sanctions, women are typically already at an economic disadvantage apart from sanctions due to preexisting patterns of discrimination, and thus tend to experience disproportionate effects.

Yet, women have little influence over the decisions that are allegedly needed to lift the sanctions—whether in the male-dominated North Korean state, the U.N. Security Council or the Trump administration.

All this is happening amid mounting evidence that women's participation in peacebuilding makes peace easier to achieve and more likely to last. In fact, scholars have shown that gender equality is a greater predictor of peace than a country's level of democracy or economic wealth. President Trump himself has signed legislation supporting women's participation in peace and security processes.

It's therefore time to chart a different path to peace—one that relaxes rather than tightens.

MAKING

From Page 10






voter restrictions supported by the GOP—but it stands in contrast to long-standing, widespread support for immigrants embracing citizenship.

Those who have attended a naturalization ceremony are invariably struck by a profound realization: Becoming American is not about race or religion but about agreeing to a set of principles and values embedded in our history and our Constitution.

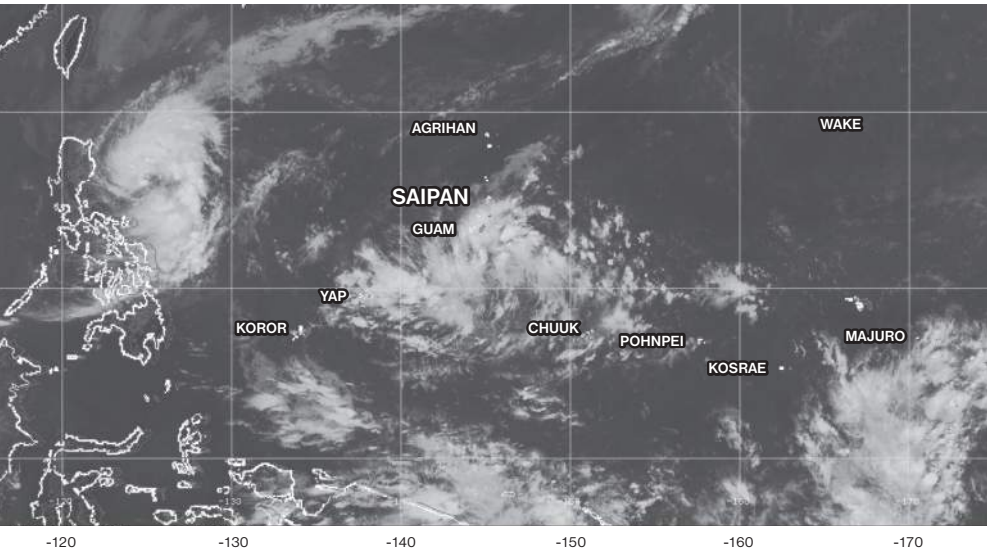
Making it harder to become part of the American family may be politically convenient but it runs straight against those values. And if California is any example, it will inevitably backfire.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	77°	87°	77°	88°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:56 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Morning satellite and radar imagery shows a few showers over the local area with increased shower coverage south and east of the islands. Surface analysis shows a surface trough to the east of the Marianas near 150E. As this trough moves westward, shower activity will increase with isolated thunderstorms possible this afternoon. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are probable tonight as the trough passes. Low-level convergence in the wake of the trough will continue to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Monday. Lingering convergence will produce isolated showers and thunderstorms Monday night and Tuesday. A second trough will bring isolated showers and thunderstorms Thursday and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°	
London	Showers	46° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	76° / 67°	
New York	Showers	47° / 41°	
Osaka	Showers	57° / 46°	
Paris	Showers	45° / 37°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 36°	
Rome	Rain	61° / 52°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	59° / 42°	
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	41° / 25°	
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	49° / 37°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:18 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.34	
12:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	
6:33 PM	LOW TIDE	1.20	
10:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.49	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:12 AM	10:51 PM
Tuesday	-	12:04 AM	11:51 PM
Wednesday	-	12:54 AM	-
Thursday	12:50 AM	1:41 PM	-
Friday	1:48 AM	2:26 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1	OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Circus Fun on Saipan!



Photos show scenes from the Super American Circus' three-day, seven back-to-back performances, last Nov. 15 to 17 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe. IVA MAURIN

Lion’s club walkathon fundraiser draws hundreds

A lot of the Saipan community woke up early to participate in the 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club yesterday, Nov. 17, 2019, along Beach Road, as part of the commemoration of Diabetes Awareness Month this month.

This year’s fundraiser will benefit the Diabetes Prevention & Control Program of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.’s Division of Public Health.

A total of 260 walkers registered and participated, which started with a 15-minute aerobics session, courtesy



of FitBeat.

The walkers and runners started hitting the pavement on Beach Road at 6am, from the Carolinian Utt to just before Monika’s Gallery near Quartermaster Road, and back to complete the 5K distance.

Representatives of DPCP were on hand to give free blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and advised participants on what health signs to guard against.

As one of Lions Club International’s global causes, *#We Serve to*

reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve the quality of life for those diagnosed.

The fundraiser was also supported by the Saipan Alliance Lions Club, Saipan Centennial Lions Club, Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, and Saipan Unity Lions Club.

The event’s sponsors included:

- Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- Graphics, Inc.
- FitBeat
- CNMI Department of Commu-

nity & Cultural Affairs for the use of Carolinian Utt

- CNMI Department of Public Safety for road safety assistance along Beach Road
- Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
- Marianas Eye Institute
- IT&E
- CTSI Logistics
- MP Holdings
- Pacific Amusement
- Shirley’s Coffee Shop
- Saipan Ice & Water
- Sapphire Enterprises
- Triple R Pacific Motor Shop
- Kanoa Resort

- Marianas Printing
- White Coconut Computer Services
- Barney’s Pizza
- Century Insurance Saipan
- MarPac Distributors
- Lion Flor Miranda
- Serenity Salon + Spa
- Triple J 5-Star Wholesale
- McDonald’s
- City Trust Bank
- Joeten Ace Hardware
- SeaTouch
- Rep. Peter Marco
- Rep. Ivan Blanco (PR)



Participants of the 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club yesterday have their picture taken at the grounds of the Carolinian Utt in Garapan before the start of the walkathon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Photo shows some of the participants of the 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club yesterday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club yesterday starts with a 15-minute aerobics session. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Radio Barrigada during the following dates and times:

- Nov. 18, from 5am to 11:55pm
- Nov. 21-23, from 9am to 4p.m.
- Nov. 21, from 6-11pm

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine heli-

copter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during these trainings.

U.S. Naval Base Guam Security Forces will conduct training from 8am to 2pm on Nov. 20 in outer Apra Harbor.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice

to mariners for advisories.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the coordinates

13°26’N/145°08’E and 13°42’N/144°36’E during the following dates and times:

- Nov. 18, from 5:45pm to 9pm
- Nov. 20, from 6pm to 10pm
- Nov. 21, from 6pm to 11:55pm

The U.S. Navy will also conduct open-ocean exercises from 2pm to 6pm on Nov.

19 within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°45’N/144°35’E, 13°30’N/144°35’E, 13°30’N/144°19’E and 13°45’N/144°19’E.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

75 YEARS AFTER WAR IN SAIPAN

Shiko Gakuen honors the fallen in 33rd Marpi ceremony

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-two members of the Shiko Gakuen Mission group are on Saipan for the 33rd annual tradition of visiting the sacred grounds of Marpi to honor those who have fallen in World War II and to pray for world peace.

“Our memory of our visit to Saipan this year has a special meaning since it has been 75 years after the war [on] Saipan,” said Rev. Masakazu Kawakami, who is with the group. “We have established our monument here, and conducted our memorial services over the years to pray for world peace, and for all Americans, Japanese soldiers and civilians who have suffered and perished during the war.”

The Shikou Gakuen Mission built the memorial monument on Banzai Cliff in 1988 and has continued to offer prayers not only for those who perished in Saipan during World War II, but also for people from all nations who have died because of wars.

“This monument, built 31 years ago, continues to stand in tribute to all who perished in the battle of Saipan during World War II. It is a monu-



Thirty-two members of the Shikogakuen Mission dedicate flowers and prayers at Banzai Cliff during the 33rd annual tradition of the group to visit the sacred grounds of Marpi to pray for world peace and to honor those who have fallen in World War II.

PHOTOS BY IVA MAURIN

ment in remembrance of all the victims of that war, Japanese, Americans, and native peoples of the Marianas,” said

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who spoke at the 33rd Shiko Gakuen Peace Ceremony in Marpi last Saturday, spoke of the significance of the monu-

ments in healing and rebuilding both Japan and the CNMI.

“Our heritage and cultural upbringings come with a great deal of Japanese influence,”

Palacios said. “Together, we have reconciliation. We have achieved reconciliation, and rebuild our once-torn societies. Together, we gather here to pray for peace and harmony in our world today and for generations to come.”

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, whose office has been spearheading exchange programs to fortify relations between Japan and Saipan, also joined and prayed with

the Shiko Gakuen Mission group, as part of honoring fallen citizens.

Members of the mission offered hymns and prayers, dedicated a thousand paper cranes—representing peace—and flowers, and walked the short distance from the Marpi memorial to Banzai Cliff for the dedication of flowers and prayers.

Approximately 4,000 members of the Shiko Gakuen mission group have prayed at the monument in Marpi for the past 33 years.

Hiroko Tajima, Pacific De-



Rev. Masakazu Kawakami leads the prayers as the Shikogakuen Mission celebrates its 33rd annual tradition of the visiting the sacred grounds of Marpi to pray for world peace, and to honor those who have fallen from the war.



Various flags are on display at the Shikogakuen memorial in Marpi as the Shikogakuen Mission performs its 33rd annual tradition of visiting the grounds of Marpi.

velopment Inc. assistant general manager, said that they have asked some landowners on the island to allow the group, which came all the way from Osaka, to let them

into their properties so they can light incenses and pray in areas for their departed families. PDI usually handles the logistics of the group's visits to the CNMI.



Participants of the Shikogakuen Mission carry pictures of deceased relatives as part of the group's 33rd annual tradition of visiting the sacred grounds of Marpi to pray for departed loved ones.



Participants of the Shikogakuen Mission walk from the memorial in Marpi to Banzai Cliff as part of the group's tradition to pray for world peace and to honor those who have fallen in World War II.



The Shikogakuen Mission celebrates its 33rd annual tradition of the visiting the sacred grounds of Marpi to pray for world peace and to honor those who have fallen in World War II



A participant of the Shikogakuen Mission prepare to dedicate paper cranes—representing peace—at the Marpi memorial during the 33rd Shiko Gakuen Peace Ceremony in Marpi last Saturday.

Nation

California school shooter dies with motive a mystery

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)—A 16-year-old boy who killed two students and wounded three others at his Southern California high school before turning a gun on himself died Friday without investigators discovering the motive for the attack, authorities said.

Nathaniel Tennosuke Berhow, died from a head wound. His mother was present when he died, according to a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department statement.

Berhow, described by friends as quiet but funny and likable, showed no outward signs of violence prior to the attack. After more than 40 interviews, police still don't know what prompted him to commit such a crime, said Capt. Kent Wegener of the department's homicide unit. He said no manifesto, diary or suicide note had been found.

"It still remains a mystery why," Sheriff Alex Villanueva told a press conference. He said it was "a planned attack, it was deliberate," but "we don't have" the details behind it.

Berhow opened fire around 7:30 a.m. Thursday, his birthday, after being dropped off

at Saugus High School in the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita. Video surveillance showed Berhow walk alone to the center of a quad, drop his backpack, pull out the gun and start firing, police said.

Villanueva said after opening fire Berhow "cleared a malfunction" with the gun and kept shooting. He counted his rounds, Villanueva said, firing about six shots and using the last bullet on himself. The attack took just 16 seconds.

"As far as we know the actual targets were at random," the sheriff said.

Villanueva said the conclusion that the attack was planned was based on Berhow bringing the weapon, ably handling it and keeping track of the rounds fired.

"It wasn't a spur-of-the-moment act," Villanueva said.

Three off-duty law enforcement officers were first on the scene and treated some of the wounded until paramedics arrived.

The dead were identified as 15-year-old Gracie Anne Muehlberger and 14-year-old Dominic Blackwell.

In a statement, Bryan and Cindy Muehlberger said

they shared the news of their daughter's death with "unexplainable brokenness." They described her as their "Cinderella, the daughter we always dreamed to have," and said her two brothers were heartbroken.

"She will never get to drive a car, fall in love, build a career, get married, have children and do all the other things everyone takes for granted in this short thing called life," they said.

"We miss her smile, laughter, sweet kisses, and her amazing sense of humor. We will even miss her constant pestering for Starbucks and Cold Stone and anything else with lots of sugar in it. It must have been the reason why she was so sweet."

Two girls wounded in the attack, ages 14 and 15, were shot in the torso and should be released from the hospital over the weekend, doctors said Friday. A 14-year-old boy was treated and released.

The names of the wounded were not released.

Berhow was described as a quiet and smart kid who was a Boy Scout and had previously run track for his school.

Testimony ties president closer to pressure on Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gordon Sondland, President Donald Trump's emissary to the European Union, had a message when he met with a top Ukrainian official.

Sondland said vital U.S. military assistance to Ukraine might be freed up if the country's top prosecutor "would go to the mike and announce that he was opening the Burisma investigation," a U.S. official told lawmakers. Burisma is the gas company in Ukraine where Democrat Joe Biden's son Hunter served on the board.

Sondland relayed the exchange moments later to Tim Morrison, then a National Security Council aide. In his private testimony to impeachment investigators made public Saturday, Morrison recounted that Sondland also told him he was discussing the Ukraine matters directly with Trump.

Morrison's testimony ties Trump more closely to the central charge from Democrats pursuing impeachment: that Trump held up U.S. military aid to Ukraine in exchange for investigations into Democrats and Biden's

family. Morrison's testimony also contradicts much of what Sondland told congressional investigators during his own closed-door deposition, which the ambassador later amended.

Both Morrison and Sondland are scheduled to testify publicly next week as part of the historic, high-stakes impeachment proceedings into the nation's 45th president. Democrats charge that Trump abused his office for personal political gain, while the president and his allies argue that the process is politically motivated and that nothing in the testimony so far meets the bar for impeachment.

Transcripts from the closed-door testimony from Morrison, a longtime Republican defense hawk in Washington, and Jennifer Williams, a special adviser to Vice President Mike Pence on Russia and Europe, were released Saturday as investigators accelerated and deepened the probe. They provided another window into the alarm within the government over Ukraine pressure.

Immediately after the exchange with Sondland during an international gathering in Warsaw, Morrison

called his boss, John Bolton, then Trump's national security adviser.

"Stay out of it," Bolton told him, "brief the lawyers."

For Morrison, Burisma was a catch-all for a "bucket" of investigations — of Democrats and the family of Joe Biden — that he wanted to "stay away from." They had nothing to do with "the proper policy process that I was involved in on Ukraine," he testified.

Morrison said Sondland and Trump had spoken approximately five times between July 15 and Sept. 11 — the weeks that \$391 million in U.S. assistance was withheld from Ukraine before it was released.

While some, including Trump himself, have begun to question Sondland's knowledge of events, Morrison told House investigators the ambassador "related to me he was acting — he was discussing these matters with the President."

Pressed by Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the Intelligence Committee leading the probe, as to whether Sondland had actually spoken to the president,

Business

United puts jet lag to rest with Timeshifter app partnership

CHICAGO—United Airlines customers now have a new, scientific way to battle jet lag through a first-of-its-kind partnership with Timeshifter®, an app that outlines the best time to see and avoid light, sleep and enjoy caffeine to adjust quickly to a new time zone.

Starting today, all MileagePlus members receive access to a free Timeshifter jet lag plan and Premier 1K members receive a complimentary subscription with unlimited plans. The app is targeted at customers flying across three or more time zones and will be a helpful tool for them to manage their jet lag as they travel throughout United's global route network.

"We want to do everything we can to help improve the experience of traveling across time zones, whether it's a business trip to Tel Aviv or a vacation to Tahiti, our customers should arrive feeling fresh and ready to hit the ground running," said Vice President of Loyalty and President of MileagePlus, Luc Bondar. "Timeshifter takes all the guesswork out of avoiding jet lag and instead uses science and algorithms to design a customized, step-by-step trip across time zones. I was a believer the first time I used the app and I think our customers will love it too."

Timeshifter was developed by top researchers in sleep and circadian neuroscience and is aimed at customers crossing three or more



UNITED AIRLINES

United Airlines MileagePlus members will now receive access to a free Timeshifter jet lag plan and Premier 1K members receive a complimentary subscription with unlimited plans.

time zones. The app uses an algorithm to customize plans for customers based on a number of factors including normal sleep pattern, flight details and individual preferences, creating a personalized jet lag alleviation plan. Each plan includes:

Instructions for when travelers should prioritize exposure to bright light or avoid it.

A sleep and napping schedule based on his or her own sleep preferences.

A plan to optimize caffeine intake for alertness and sleep.

Optional timing for taking melatonin, should travelers choose to do so.

MileagePlus members will receive a free jet lag plan for a flight plan of their choosing in addition to the complimentary trial Timeshifter offers customers for a total of two free flight plans. MileagePlus Premier 1K members will be able to sign up for complimentary annual subscriptions for unlimited access to jet lag plans when

they travel. Individual plans for the app retail at \$9.99 for a round trip plan and yearly memberships are \$24.99.

United's partnership with Timeshifter is an additional step in improving the travel experience for MileagePlus members. Earlier this year, United announced that MileagePlus miles no longer expire and partnered with CLEAR to provide members with free or deeply discounted memberships to the expedited security option.

United flies some of the longest routes in the world, including the two longest flights operated by a U.S. carrier with non-stop service between Houston and Sydney and between San Francisco and Singapore. In December, United will become the only airline to fly direct from North America to Cape Town, South Africa with the start of brand-new service from New York/Newark. United flies 320 routes to 120 international destinations from the U.S. (PR)

Walmart alters disability reassignment policy to settle suit

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—Walmart has agreed to change its national policy for reassigning disabled workers to settle a lawsuit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Maine.

The settlement requires Walmart to offer disabled workers a vacant position in up to five nearby stores instead of just an employee's current location. Walmart also agreed to pay \$80,000 to a worker who was not offered the opportunity to transfer to another store.

The lawsuit, in federal court in Bangor, was filed on behalf of a longtime worker who developed a disability that prevented her from continuing her job as a sales associate.

Walmart determined that the only positions that were suitable for her were as a greeter or fitting room associate. Such jobs were available at Walmart stores in Waterville and Thomaston, but not at the worker's store in Augusta. She parted ways with the retailer in 2014.

The lawsuit contended Walmart violated the Americans With Disabilities Act by declining to offer jobs at other locations.

"Federal law requires employers to reassign employees with a disability to vacant positions as the reasonable accommodation of last resort," Jeffrey Burstein, regional attorney for the EEOC's district office in New York, said in a statement.

Walmart didn't acknowledge wrongdoing under a consent decree, signed by a federal judge on Wednesday, but did agree to change its practices.

Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove said Saturday that a change of policy was already in the works and was being tested through a pilot program before the settlement was announced late Friday. The new policy will be rolled out to Walmart stores nationwide in February, he said.

"We don't tolerate discrimination of any kind," he said. "We have thousands of associates who perform their jobs with reasonable accommodations. That includes job reassignments."

Asia



ASIAN BRIEFS

Tear gas, firebombs engulf Hong Kong university in new clash

HONG KONG (AP)—Police fired tear gas at protesters holding out at Hong Kong Polytechnic University as overnight clashes resumed Sunday, and opposition lawmakers criticized the Chinese military for joining a cleanup to remove debris from streets. A large group of people arrived to try to clean up a debris-strewn roadway near the campus but were warned away by protesters. Riot police lined up a few hundred meters (yards) away and shot several volleys of tear gas at the protesters, who sheltered behind a wall of umbrellas across an entire street. The faceoff came hours after intense overnight clashes in which the two sides exchanged tear gas and gasoline bombs that left fires blazing in the street. Many protesters retreated inside the Polytechnic campus, where they have barricaded entrances and set up narrow access control points. Protesters, who occupied several major campuses for much of last week, have largely retreated, except for a contingent at Polytechnic. That group is also blocking access to the nearby Cross-Harbour Tunnel, one of the three main road tunnels that link Hong Kong Island with the rest of the city. Elsewhere, workers and volunteers — including a group of Chinese soldiers who came out from their barracks — cleared roads of debris Saturday as most of the protesters melted away.

US, S. Korea postpone joint exercise criticized by N. Korea

BANGKOK (AP)—The United States and South Korea on Sunday said they were postponing a joint military air exercise that North Korea has criticized as provocative. U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper and his South Korean counterpart made the announcement in Bangkok, where they were attending an Asia defense ministers' conference. Esper told reporters he did not consider the postponement a concession to North Korea. "We have made this decision as an act of goodwill to contribute to an environment conducive to diplomacy and the advancement of peace," Esper said. As recently as Friday, when Esper was in Seoul to consult with South Korean officials, there was no word on postponing the military air exercise, which had been called Vigilant Ace. Seoul and Washington had

scaled back the exercise recently and changed the name, but North Korea strongly objected, calling it evidence of a lack of interest in improving relations. The North has demanded accommodations before it will agree to resume nuclear negotiations.

At least 7 die, 25 hurt in Bangladesh gas pipeline explosion

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—At least seven people were killed and another 25 injured after a gas pipeline exploded in southeastern Bangladesh on Sunday, police said. The explosion at Patharghata area in Chittagong district collapsed portions of a boundary wall of a nearby building, local police chief Mohammed Mohsin said. He said at least 25 people were hospitalized and firefighters joined the rescue operation. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion. News reports said the road in front of the explosion site was busy with people and tricycle rickshaws. A boundary wall fell on the people on the road. The explosion took place when residents were preparing for the day's work in the morning, Mohsin said. Chittagong is 216 kilometers (134 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka.

Former Sri Lankan defense chief wins presidential vote

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party presidential candidate has conceded defeat to rival Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the Indian Ocean island nation's election. Housing Minister Sajith Premadasa says in a statement he will "honor the decision of the people" in polls Saturday favoring Rajapaksa, the civil war-era defense secretary who served under his brother, ex-President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Rajapaksa spokesman Keheleli Rambukwella described the win as a "people's victory." Rajapaksa reached the threshold for victory of 50% plus one vote by Sunday morning, with most of Premadasa's electoral strongholds counted. Sri Lanka's Election Commission says that while gunmen had fired at a convoy of buses carrying Muslim voters in the country's north hours before polling stations opened, the vote was largely peaceful.

Myanmar rejects court probe into crimes against Rohingyas

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's govern-

ment rejected the International Criminal Court's decision to allow prosecutors to open an investigation into crimes committed against the Rohingya Muslim minority. Government spokesman Zaw Htay said at a Friday night press conference that Myanmar stood by its position that the Netherlands-based court has no jurisdiction over its actions. His statement was the first official reaction since the court on Thursday agreed to proceed with the case. Myanmar has been accused of carrying out human rights abuses on a massive scale in the western state of Rakhine in 2017 during what it described as a counterinsurgency campaign. Zaw Htay cited a Myanmar Foreign Ministry statement from April 2018 that because Myanmar was not a party to the agreement establishing the court, it did not need to abide by the court's rulings. "It has already been expressed in the statement that the investigation over Myanmar by the ICC is not in accordance with international law," he told reporters in the Myanmar capital Naypyitaw.

Australian MP says he and colleague barred entry to China

PERTH, Australia (AP)—An outspoken Australian parliamentarian said that he and a colleague have been barred entry to China for a study trip, a development he said was concerning. Sen. James Paterson said he and Rep. Andrew Hastie were due to take part in a study tour next month in Beijing organized by China Matters, an Australia-based think-tank. He said the Chinese Embassy in Canberra informed China Matters on Friday that the pair would not be allowed to enter the country. Paterson has spoken out about human rights abuses against minority Muslim Uighurs in China's Xinjiang region and the ongoing protests in Hong Kong, while Hastie in August was rebuked by Beijing after comparing the West's handling of China's rise to the failure to contain Nazi Germany. "It's hard to conclude anything other than our criticisms of the Chinese Communist Party has resulted in us not being welcome," Paterson told The Associated Press on Saturday. "It's concerning China feels that people who have been publicly critical of the Chinese Communist Party are not welcome to visit and learn from China," he added.

World

IN ANTI-MADURO PROTEST

Venezuela's Guaidó leads thousands

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A large crowd rallied around Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó in a peaceful protest Saturday, answering his call to take to the streets in an attempt to reignite a campaign aimed at forcing President Nicolás Maduro from power.

Guaidó in a speech urged supporters to remain in the streets in the days ahead, pointing to the recent upheaval in Bolivia, where 18 days of protests prompted the resignation of Maduro's ally, Evo Morales.

"If we stay at home, we will lose," Guaidó said before marching peacefully with a small group of supporters to the Bolivian Embassy in eastern Caracas, an opposition stronghold.

"Today, tomorrow and Monday — we will be in the streets," Guaidó said.

It was not clear he would be able to sustain momentum.

The crowds in Caracas where Guaidó spoke were larger than they had been in months — with an estimated five blocks of a wide Caracas avenue crowded with thou-

sands of supporters.

But they lacked the size and combativeness of demonstrations in January, when Guaidó declared himself president, arguing that Maduro had "usurped" power and violated the constitution by starting a second term widely seen by opponents as illegitimate.

Daniel Lansberg-Rodriguez, a geopolitical risk analyst who teaches at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, said the march was not likely what Guaidó and his supporters had hoped for, especially at a time when the region has been inflamed with mass urban protest.

But, he added, "I'd be wary of proclaiming an ignominious end to the Guaidó movement," noting that millions of Venezuelans have migrated and the government's heavy-handed response to protests has scared away others.

Managing disappointment has long been a challenge for the opposition movement, Lansberg-Rodriguez said, adding that Guaidó has proven to be a resilient leader.

The demonstration in Caracas played out peacefully, with government security forces dressed in riot gear standing by on the perimeter without any of the firing of tear gas canisters as seen in violent protests earlier this year.

Retired office worker Deborah Angarita acknowledged that the crowd was not large, but she said she is determined to continue marching despite the government's efforts to wear down their resistance.

"We will stay in the streets until the regime leaves," said Angarita, who has been at all of the opposition marches this year.

Lisbeth Guerra said she closed her two electronics shops in Caracas to join the march because she is fed up with two decades of socialist rule that have ruined the economy and driven 20 of her relatives to leave the country.

"More than anything, I want other nations in the world to take note of our crisis," she said, joining Guaidó supporters at a plaza in the opposition stronghold of Altamira.

Protests grip major Iran cities over gas prices; 1 killed

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Protesters angered by Iran raising government-set gasoline prices by 50% blocked traffic in major cities and occasionally clashed with police Saturday after a night of demonstrations punctuated by gunfire, in violence that reportedly killed at least one person.

The protests put renewed pressure on Iran's government as it struggles to overcome the U.S. sanctions strangling the country after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Though largely peaceful, demonstrations devolved into violence in several instances, with online videos purporting to show police officers firing tear gas at protesters and mobs setting fires. While representing a political risk for President Hassan Rouhani ahead of February parliamentary elections, it also shows the widespread anger among Iran's 80 million people who have seen their savings evaporate amid scarce jobs and the national rial currency's collapse.

The demonstrations took

place in over a dozen cities in the hours following Rouhani's decision early Friday to cut gasoline subsidies to fund handouts for Iran's poor. Gasoline in the country still remains among the cheapest in the world, with the new prices jumping up to a minimum of 15,000 rials per liter of gas — 50% up from the day before. That's 13 cents a liter, or about 50 cents a gallon. A gallon of regular gasoline in the U.S. costs \$2.60 by comparison.

But in a nation where many get by as informal taxi drivers, cheap gasoline is considered a birthright. Iran is home to the world's fourth-largest crude oil reserves. While expected for months, the decision still caught many by surprise and sparked immediate demonstrations overnight.

Violence broke out Friday night in Sirjan, a city some 800 kilometers (500 miles) southeast of Tehran. The state-run IRNA news agency said "protesters tried to set fire to the oil depot, but they were stopped by police." It did not elaborate, but online videos circulating on Iranian social media purported to

show a fire at the depot as sirens wailed in the background. Another showed a large crowd shouting: "Rouhani, shame on you! Leave the country alone!"

Mohammad Mahmoudabadi, an Interior Ministry official in Sirjan, later told state television that police and demonstrators exchanged gunfire, wounding several. He said many protesters were peaceful, but later masked men armed with guns and knives infiltrated the demonstration.

"They insisted on reaching the oil depot and creating crises," Mahmoudabadi said.

The semi-official ISNA news agency later quoted Mahmoudabadi as saying the violence killed one person.

In Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province, online videos purported to show police firing tear gas on crowds. The province's city of Khorramshahr also saw gunfire, as could be heard in a brief clip played on air by state television. The region has long been a political tinderbox, with its ethnic Arab population that feels disenfranchised from the country's Persian-language majority.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Study links increased physical activity to reducing symptoms of depression

By COURTNEY KUEPPERS
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

It's estimated that more than 17 million adults in the United States have at least one major depressive episode in any given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

And while depression, and treatment options, look different for everyone, a new study found that increased levels of physical activity can help prevent future episodes of depression, even for those who are genetically predisposed to the condition.

The study, conducted by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital, found that people who engaged in several hours of physical activity each week were less likely to have future depressive episodes.

"Our findings strongly suggest that, when it comes to depression, genes are not destiny and that being physically active

A new study finds that increased levels of physical activity can help prevent future episodes of depression, even for those who are genetically predisposed to the condition.

has the potential to neutralize the added risk of future episodes in individuals who are genetically vulnerable," researcher Karmel Choi said.

The study looked at data from about 8,000 participants who recorded their lifestyle habits, including time spent exercising, in a survey. They also calculated risk scores for the participants based on genes and compared health records tracked over a two-year period.

A separate research team concluded last year that strength training was the

form of physical fitness most likely to help combat depression.

But the newly released study says physical activity in many forms—including fast-paced activities like dance and weight lifting or lower level exercises like yoga and stretching—can aid in staving off depressive symptoms.

Researchers are continuing to analyze the dataset to provide further solutions to help reduce the risk of depression, according to the study.

Approximately 1 in 7 college students

is diagnosed with depression, according to researchers.

"We believe there may be many factors could be part of an overall strategy for improving resilience and preventing depression," Choi said. "The magnitude of depression around the world underscores the need for effective strategies that can impact as many people as possible."

Nationally, 1 in 6 adults will have depression at some time in their life, according to the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

JONATHAN FERGUSON/DREAMSTIME/TNS



LESIA SEMENTSOVA/DREAMSTIME/TNS

INFECTIOUS DISEASES A TO Z: New flu antiviral available

For those who become ill with the flu, a new antiviral medication may help. "This is really kind of a blockbuster," says Dr. Gregory Poland, director of the Mayo Clinic Vaccine Research Group. "We have not had a new influenza antiviral drug in a couple of decades."

"New in this last year is baloxivir, an antiviral drug that can be used to treat influenza and only takes one dose. If you develop symptoms of influenza, and you're elderly or have medical problems, we now have a drug where we can administer one dose and treat this virus very effectively if you get in to be seen within 48 hours of developing symptoms," says Dr. Poland.

The medication can help lessen symptoms and shorten the amount of time of the illness. It is especially

important for those who are at high risk of developing complications from the flu virus, including those over age 65 and those with chronic medical problems, such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease.

Most healthy people who become ill with the flu recover on their own and won't need medical care or antivirals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends those at high risk of serious flu complications contact their health care provider for the best treatment options.

Baloxivir is one of four antiviral drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the CDC. It is only licensed for those 12 and older. Other antiviral prescription medications include oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir.

THOSE AT HIGH RISK OF FLU COMPLICATIONS ARE:

- Young children under age 5, and especially those under 1 year
- Adults over 65
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- Pregnant women and women up to two weeks postpartum
- People with weakened immune systems
- People who have chronic illnesses, such as asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease and diabetes
- People with a body mass index of 40 or higher

Antiviral medication is not a substitute for the flu vaccine. The CDC recommends that everyone over 6 months get a flu shot annually. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)

For those who become ill with the flu, a new antiviral medication may help.

Life & Style

Locals rush to protect Venice art



A paper boat floats in a flooded St. Mark's Square in Venice, Friday, Nov. 15, 2019. AP

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Exceptionally high tidal waters rolled relentlessly through Venice again on Friday, forcing the closure of St. Mark's Square to the public and flooding most of the lagoon city's already devastated center before easing.

Forecasters warned that the danger for more wind-propelled high tides remained through the weekend.

The Italian government issued an international appeal for donations to help repair damage to the centuries-old city's rich cultural heritage after Tuesday's floods, which were the worst in decades.

People can donate 2 euros (\$2.20) by sending a text message to a special number Culture Minister Dario Franceschini said.

"All the world loves this splendid city, let them show it now," he said in a statement.

A senior port authority official wrote to major cruise ship companies to for donations.

Massive cruise liners disgorge thousands of day-trippers into Venice on a near-daily basis, boosting its economy but also risking accidents with smaller vessels.

Late Tuesday, Venice water levels reached 1.87 meters (6 feet, 1 inch) above sea level, the highest flooding since 1966.

On Friday, ten minutes before noon, the tide peaked at 1.54 meters (5 feet) above sea level. Six hours later, it had re-

ceded to some 60 centimeters (two feet).

Built on a series of tiny islets amid a system of canals, Venice is particularly vulnerable to a combination of rising sea levels due to climate change coupled with the city's well-documented sinking into the mud. The sea level in Venice is 10 centimeters (4 inches) higher than it was 50 years ago, according to the city's tide office.

More than 50 churches have reported damage from the tides, Minister Franceschini said as he inspected the city. Carabinieri officers from the corps' world-renowned and highly-trained squad of art experts were being deployed to map damage to art treasures, a job that is expected to take some time.

"While the water is still there, it's difficult to know what the (full) damage is," Franceschini said.

The minister called on lawmakers of all political stripes to quickly approve extending tax breaks for those who donate to help restore state monuments and artworks and also for those who contribute for Venice's damaged churches.

"There are so many churches which have suffered damage and were invaded by water," Franceschini. Likely the most heavily damaged was St. Mark's Basilica, since it is in one of the lowest points of the city.

At the government's request, the Italian Space Agency was gathering radar data from satellites to detect any signs that Venice bell tow-

ers may have shifted or that their foundations might have weakened after being buffeted countless times over the centuries by fast-rising waters.

On Thursday, the government declared a state of emergency, approving 20 million euros (\$22.1 million) to help Venice repair the most urgent damage.

Venice Mayor Luigi Brugn-

aro has estimated damage at hundreds of millions of euros and blamed climate change for the city's plight.

He also called for the speedy completion of the city's long-delayed Moses flood defense project. Moses consists of a series of moveable barriers in the lagoon that can be raised when high winds and high tides combine to

threaten to send "acqua alta," as the uniquely Venetian phenomenon is known, rushing across the city.

Completion of the multi-billion-euro project, under construction since 2003, has been delayed by corruption scandals, cost overruns and opposition from environmentalists who were worried about its effects on Venice's delicate

lagoon ecosystem.

Opposition politicians in the Veneto Region, which has Venice as its capital, noted wryly that the local center-right majority had just voted against an amendment to fund efforts aimed at dealing with climate change when the regional assembly hall was flooded Tuesday night, forcing politicians to flee.

CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

† Lydia Mendiola Dela Cruz

BORN TO LIFE ON APRIL 27, 1956

CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019



In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Juan Santos Dela Cruz
Sons: †Vicente M. Dela Cruz
 †Jesus M. Dela Cruz
Grandson: †Juan A. Dela Cruz
Parents: †Vicente B. Mendiola
 and †Francisca S. Mendiola
Mother In law: †Juana S. Dela Cruz
Sister: †Carmen M. Torres
In laws: †Rafael V. Torres
 †Agnes P. Castro
 †George I. Nada



Her loving memory will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children:
 John Jr & Dreama P. Dela Cruz (Denalyn, Kyle, Jayna Lyann, John Junior, Dora Lydia, Lyena Dorean)
 Fermin M. Dela Cruz / Rita B. Aldan (Raynita, Benjomin Joray, Jude, KaiLina Rian)
 Frances M. Dela Cruz / Jennifer C. Teigita (LyAnces Juanay)
 Lina Mae M. Dela Cruz / Argernon A. Flores
 Joshua M. Dela Cruz / Natalie C. Babauta (Joshua Blaize)

Siblings:

Jesus & Teresita Castro & Family
 †Carmen & †Rafael V. Torres & Family
 Ana & Roman T. Tudela & Family
 Susana S. Mendiola & Family

In Laws:

Joaquin and Trini Dela Cruz & Family
 Francisco and Elvie Dela Cruz & Family
 Ramon and Rebecca Dela Cruz & Family
 Thomas and Joanne Dela Cruz & Family
 Edward and Cathy Dela Cruz & Family
 Ramona and Roman Borja & Family
 Paulina Dela Cruz & Family
 Frances Dela Cruz and Joaquin Pangelinan & Family
 Barbara Dela Cruz and Jose Manalo & Family
 Mary Ann and Norman Indalecio & Family

Holy Mass is offered nightly at 6:00pm, St. Jude Church, followed by the rosary.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Her remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso services and recitation of holy rosary will take place upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Final mass will be offered on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 6:00pm, followed by the rosary at San Antonio Church.

YOUR THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, WORDS OF COMFORT
 AND PRESENCE ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATED

John Jr., Fermin, Frances, Lina, Joshua, & Family



Taylor Swift's fight with music group escalates

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Swift said Thursday that she may not perform at the American Music Awards and may have to put other projects including a forthcoming Netflix documentary on hold because the men who own her old recordings won't allow her to play her songs.

"Right now my performance at the AMAs, the Netflix documentary and any other recorded events I am planning to play until November 2020 are a question mark," Swift said on Twitter and Instagram.

Swift said she had planned to play a medley of her hits when she's named Artist of the Decade at the American Music Awards on Nov. 24, but the men who own the music, Scooter Braun and Scott Borchetta, are calling the television performance an illegal re-recording.

"I just want to be able to perform MY OWN music. That's it," Swift said. "I've tried to work out this out privately through my team but have not been able to resolve anything."

The Big Machine Label Group said in a statement Friday that "at no point did we

say Taylor could not perform on the AMAs or block her Netflix special. In fact, we do not have the right to keep her from performing live anywhere."

The 29-year-old singer-songwriter has loudly spoken out against her old master recordings falling into the hands of the music manager Braun, who bought them by acquiring Borchetta's Big Machine Label Group in June. Swift has used the sale and its aftermath to publicly advocate for the rights of artists and to further a feud with the two men.

Swift said in the posts that Borchetta has told her he will allow the projects to go forward if she drops plans to record copycat versions of her older songs next year, which Swift says she plans to do and has the legal right to, and if she stops her public trashing of the two men.

"The message being sent to me is very clear," Swift said. Basically, be a good little girl and shut up. Or you'll be punished."

A message seeking comment from the AMAs was not returned.

Swift called on her legion of

fans to put pressure on Braun and Borchetta to allow her performance and other projects to go forward.

That ignited social media, with the hashtags "IStandWithTaylor" and "Free-Taylor" trending worldwide on Twitter.

The Big Machine Label Group countered that Swift owes millions of dollars to it and has created a narrative that "does not exist." Big Machine also criticized Swift for enlisting her fans and asked her to engage in "direct and honest conversation" with it.

Tree Paine, Swift's publicist, responded to Big Machine's statement on Friday morning saying in a Twitter post that the label had not agreed to issue licenses of her recordings for the Netflix documentary and Borchetta denied the request for the AMAs.

"Lastly, Big Machine is trying to deflect and make this about money by saying she owes them but an independent, professional auditor has determined that Big Machine owes Taylor \$7.9 million dollars of unpaid royalties over several years," Paine wrote.



Swift

Prince Andrew denies claims of Epstein accuser in interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince Andrew offered a detailed rebuttal Saturday to claims he



Andrew

had sex with a woman who says she was trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein, providing an alibi for one of the alleged encounters and questioning the authenticity of a well-known photograph that shows him posing with the woman.

In a rare interview with BBC Newsnight, Andrew categorically denied having sex with the woman, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, saying, "It didn't happen."

He said he has "no recollection" of ever meeting her and told an interviewer there are "a number of things that are wrong" about Giuffre's account.

Giuffre has said Epstein forced her to have sex with

Andrew in 2001 when she was 17. She says Epstein flew her around the world on his private planes to have sex with powerful men, and that she had sexual encounters with Andrew in London and New York and in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I can absolutely categorically tell you it never happened," Andrew said.

A request for comment was

sent to Giuffre's representative. Giuffre recently challenged the British royal to speak out, telling reporters in New York, "He knows exactly what he's done."

"And the answer is nothing," Andrew told BBC.

Andrew's decision to grant the interview was seen in Britain as a high-stakes gamble in a country where the royals don't normally talk with reporters on subjects beyond their charitable works.

The nation's newspapers,

most of which featured photos from the interview along with the pre-released excerpts on their front pages Saturday, speculated that the prince thought he had no other choice after months of tawdry headlines that threatened his ability to continue working as a royal.

"This is the gambling equivalent of betting the house on the last spin of the roulette wheel," royal writer Richard Kay said in the Daily Mail. "And Andrew has put it all on black."

Media filters set current impeachment hearings apart



Top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine William Taylor, left, and Career Foreign Service officer George Kent are sworn in prior to testifying before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, during the first public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump's efforts to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Millions of Americans are choosing to experience the impeachment hearings through media filters that depict the proceedings as either a worthless sham or like Christmas in November.

That's the chief difference between now and the two other times in the modern era when a presidential impeachment was explored, and will likely be a major factor in determining whether the hearings change anyone's minds about President Donald Trump.

Fox News Channel was the favorite network of the 13.8 million Americans who watched Wednesday's opening of the House hearing on television. The audiences for each of Fox's prime-time opinion hosts—Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham—were larger that evening than the 2.9 million people who watched the

network during the day, the Nielsen company said.

On MSNBC, a favorite of liberals in the same way many conservatives love Fox, Rachel Maddow's audience beat the network's live hearing coverage.

"Today you can pick the information source that is going to talk to you and what you'd like to believe and that's the way the audience has been dividing themselves," said Thomas Patterson, who teaches about government and the press at Harvard University and is the author of "How America Lost its Mind," about the nation's polarization.

By contrast, the chief option for working Americans who wanted to follow the impeachment case against President Richard Nixon in the 1970s was a rerun of the day's hearing that aired in prime time on PBS. This year,

PBS is streaming a rerun of the Trump hearing. A rerun has also been available on the HLN network.

CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC did not exist in the 1970s, and while CNN was in its adolescence, the other networks were in their infancy during President Bill Clinton's impeachment in the late 1990s. The same is true of an online partisan infrastructure.

Today they are the dominant cable networks and each offered lively takes from their perspectives on Wednesday. On Fox, it was labeled a snooze, even though viewers were interested: Fox had its third-highest audience of the year.

Hannity described the hearing as "a lousy day for the corrupt, do-nothing-for-three-years extreme socialist Democrats and their top allies, known as the media mob."

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

ABDON D.J. TUMAQUIP

BORN: JULY 25, 1930 | DIED: NOV. 11, 2019

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Jie Wang Tumaquip

Children:

Nestor / Leonita Tumaquip

Jose / Jacqueline Tumaquip and Children

Ma. Joannes / Roel Vinluan and children

Joshua / Suanne Tumaquip and Children

Jomar / Joyce Tumaquip and Children

Florina / Pablo Lucas and Children

Rosita / Augusto Reyes and Children

Adela T. Tumaquip and Children

Marcelo / Amy Tumaquip

Conchita T. Tumaquip and Children

Danilo / Zenaida Tumaquip and Children

Renato / Marites Tumaquip

Jenny L. Tumaquip and Children

He will surely be missed by his numerous friends, and family members.

On Monday, November 18th, 9:00am - 10:00am, everyone are invited for a Final Viewing at Borja Funeral Homes, Chalan Kanoa.

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not gaze about, for I am your God. I will fortify you. I will really help you. I will really keep fast hold of you with my right hand of righteousness... For I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right hand, the One saying to you, 'Do not be afraid. I myself will help you.'"- Isaiah 41:10, 13.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

The Family



Totenberg Stradivarius reborn 4 decades after theft

By VERENA DOBNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Stradivarius violin stolen four decades ago from the virtuoso Roman Totenberg and returned to his family by a federal prosecutor came alive again—at the crime scene.

Nineteen-year-old star violinist Nathan Meltzer revived the prized instrument of the late Polish-born musician on Friday evening at a

public concert in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He played the same music as Totenberg had minutes before his Stradivarius disappeared one night in 1980. The thief was a former student, and the violin was eventually found in a California attic.

Recovered by the FBI, it was returned to Totenberg's three daughters four years ago by the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan at the time, Preet Bharara.

"Our father would have been so pleased to hear Nathan, a gifted young violinist, breathe life back into the violin," said Jill Totenberg, a New York media strategist who attended the concert with Nina, a Na-

tional Public Radio legal affairs correspondent in Washington, and Amy, a federal judge in Atlanta.

"I felt my father was in that hall listening and smiling," said Jill.

Roman Totenberg didn't live to see his instrument again; he died in 2012 at the age of 101. When anyone would ask the Boston University music professor if he thought his violin would ever be found, he said, according to Nina, "After I have kicked the bucket."

Likely worth millions of dollars, though its value has not been disclosed, the instrument made in Italy by Antonio Stradivari in 1734 is now on long-term loan

to Meltzer, who is taking it around the world as he concertizes. Meltzer studies at The Juilliard School in New York with the famed Itzhak Perlman.

In Cambridge, at a performance titled "Homecoming," Meltzer offered an audience seated in a circle around him the music Totenberg last played on what he called his "musical partner" that he would never see again: pieces by Bach, Beethoven, the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok and the Frenchman Cesar Franck. The soloist ended with music by Totenberg's fellow native Poles, composers Karol Szymanowski and Henryk Wieniawski.

Ariana Grande tells fans she's struggling with an illness

Singer Ariana Grande is telling her fans that she has a bad sinus condition that has made her "very sick" and might force her to cancel upcoming shows on her world tour.

Grande, 26, says in videos posted Saturday on Instagram that "my throat and head are still in so much pain."

While she sounds OK, "I'm just in a lot of pain and it's difficult to breathe during the show," she says in a message to her fans. "I just really don't know what's happening with my



Grande

body right now and need to figure it out."

Grande says she plans to see a doctor soon.

She adds: "I'm scared that I might have to cancel some things, so this is kind just a heads up

of like I don't know what's happening with my body, and I'm really disappointed and freaked out of why I can't get better because it's been over three weeks at this point."

People magazine first reported on Grande's Instagram videos. (AP)

Rapper Kanye West performs for 200-plus Texas jail inmates

HOUSTON (AP)—Kanye West has followed the Johnny Cash route and performed for inmates at a Houston jail.

In secret from the public, the star rapper-turned-gospel singer performed songs Friday from his new gospel album "Jesus is King." He and his choir performed for more than 200 male inmates at one jail facility before crossing the street to another jail facility and performing for a small-



West

er crowd of female inmates.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said West's representatives asked jail officials about doing secret shows.

The Friday concerts were performed two days before West is to speak at Joel Osteen's vast Lakewood Church in Houston.

The events were reminiscent of prison concerts given by country singer Johnny Cash in California.

Utah school from 'High School Musical' may get tourist boost

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Utah high school where the Disney movie "High School Musical" was filmed over a decade ago has become a tourist destination, and the trend could grow with the premiere of Disney's new streaming service series based on the film.

Much of the popular 2006 movie was filmed at East High School in Salt Lake City. To draw in fans, the state office of

tourism has compiled a four-day, four-night "High School Musical Itinerary" for visitors to follow, the Deseret News recently reported.

The campus is open to visitors for a self-guided walking tour on weekdays from 2:30 until 7 p.m. Some tourists just want to take their pictures in front of the school's now widely recognized façade.

The school again welcomed a Disney cast and crew in

2018 to film a series based on the movie. The filming that went from the end of the school year through the summer made the campus busy, but it wasn't overwhelming, East High School assistant principal Ken DeVries said.

"They're very good to work with us. They're doing everything they can to stay out of our way," he said.

Most visitors to the school are respectful, though they

can sometimes get a little aggressive. And it's challenging when tour buses stop, he said.

"That's when it gets a little obnoxious," DeVries said.

But overall, having a place in Disney history and the hearts of fans who flock to campus has been positive, he said.

"They are delightful people and are just thrilled to see where their favorite show is made," DeVries said.

Smoker's wife draws a line at the bedroom until he quits

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 27 years. We love each other and raised two beautiful children together.

When we started dating, we were both smokers. My wife quit 20 years ago, but I continued. Two years ago, my wife told me no more sex until I do. Abby, I smoke only about 15 cigarettes a day and never in the house or car. I know it's terrible for my health, and I need to quit, but I enjoy it.

So it has been two years since we have had any intimate contact. I barely can get a kiss out of her because she says she can't stand the smell. I'm only 50, and I enjoy having sex. I don't know how much more of this I can take. Is my wife right by putting her foot down like this? She has never been a big fan of sex, but she has always satisfied me. I think this is her way of avoiding sex.

I know she's doing it because she loves me, but I have a hard time accepting it. I have tried numerous times to quit and have used medication, hypnosis, gum, etc., to no avail. Please help.

ALL SMOKE, NO SEX IN MICHIGAN

DEAR A.S.N.S.: Forgive me if I seem to lack empathy, but I don't think you are aware of how the odor of stale tobacco affects former smokers. It is gross. The smoke clings to the smoker's skin, hair and clothing, and it's the polar opposite of an aphrodisiac.

Because medication, hypnosis, gum, etc. have not helped

you to kick the habit, what's left is the old-fashioned way: cold turkey. The American Cancer Society sponsors an event every year called The Great American Smokeout. This year it is on Thursday, Nov. 21.

The theory behind it is, if someone can refrain from smoking for ONE DAY, he or she can build upon that for two days, a week, a month, etc. Many former smokers have quit this way, and if sex is as important to you as you say, I urge you to try it. (If you tell your wife you accept her terms, your situation may improve dramatically.)

DEAR ABBY: I have a disagreement with a friend about the difference between a conventional affair and an online affair. My friend insists the latter isn't an affair because it isn't physical. My opinion is, when you connect with someone online, you develop an emotional attachment to your online friend. This attachment is no different than having a physical affair. It can damage or destroy a marriage when you sneak around and lie to your mate. Do you agree?

DEFINING IT IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR DEFINING: I do agree. A relationship that involves sneaking around and lying to one's spouse is a betrayal, regardless of whether or not it's physical.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a tiny studio apartment. All my stuff

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



is in storage until I buy a home, which will be in about two years. Would it be wrong to ask my siblings to not give me any gifts for Christmas? A card would be a lot more suitable.

SIBLING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SIBLING: If a card would be more suitable, as long as you explain your reason for deviating from tradition, I see no reason why you can't be frank with your siblings. Do it now, before they start their Christmas shopping.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

PLACE YOUR
ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities
contact us at
235-6397

WAREHOUSE
for RENT

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #1 Size: 5,000sq/ft
with built-in office & bathroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
234-0609 EXT. 158, 285-1317

WHATZIT Solution: Bow out in style

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.

bow style

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Subscribe to the CNMI's First
Daily Newspaper for more news,
value and information.

SUBSCRIBING
MEANS

MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

Find today's solution in classified section

Paper trail on Astros' alleged sign-stealing scheme



**H O U S -
T O N**—The electronic

sign-stealing scheme the Houston Astros are accused of using on their way to the 2017 World Series championship reportedly has a paper trail.

An Astros front-office executive requested the team's advance scouts look into potential sign-stealing methods that can be used in the stands ahead of the playoffs in an email during the 2017 season, according to Ken Rosenthal and Evan Drellich of The Athletic.

The reported email stated: "One thing in specific we are looking for is picking up signs coming out of the dugout," the email's sender wrote in a message from August of 2017. "What we are looking for is how much we can see, how we would log things, if we need cameras/binoculars, etc. So go to game, see what you can (or can't) do and report back your findings."

The email was reportedly obtained by The Athletic on the condition that the sender and recipients were unnamed. Both MLB and the Astros declined comment to The Athletic.

The Athletic also reports that scouts discussed sign stealing with the executives on phone calls and a group Slack channel. Multiple scouts were reportedly "appalled" at the possibility when asked to use a camera and voiced those concerns to management:

"Nobody wanted to do that, and take a chance of getting caught and ruining their reputation, not only as a scout but then even further damage what the Astros had going,"



one person directly involved in the conversations said.

What Astros' management did with any information

learned through the project, or how they intended it to evolve,

In this undated file photo, Houston Astros designated hitter Evan Gattis (11) signals a double after his two-run hit, at second base during the first inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays.

is unclear.

"It just goes to the story, for 2017, we were asked to electronically cheat in the playoffs," one scout said of the long-term intent as he perceived it.

The Astros have since eliminated their entire pro scouting staff, according to The Ringer, opting to use Statcast and video instead to prepare for opposing teams. They laid off eight scouts in August 2017, the same month as the email.

The Athletic noted that MLB rules allow for scouts to steal signs from the stands, as long as the signs aren't given to their own team during the same game and as long as the signs are stolen with their own eyes or binoculars. The rules do not seem to allow cameras, as the Astros executive requested.

A year later, an Astros employee by the name of Kyle McLaughlin was caught using a camera to monitor the dugouts of the Cleveland Indians and Boston Red Sox during the playoffs. The Astros escaped penalty, with MLB accepting the Astros' explanation that McLaughlin was doing so to ensure the team's opponents weren't cheating.

The email and quotes come while the Astros stand accused of using a covert camera to illegally monitor catcher signs and relay them to batters by banging on a gar-

bage can (no bangs=fastball, one bang=breaking ball, two bangs=changeup) behind the team's dugout during home games.

The executive's request implies there could have been additional dimensions to the Astros' alleged attempts to skirt MLB rules to get a leg up during the 2017 season.

Red Sox, Cora cooperating on probe

The Houston Astros' sign-stealing scheme was rather elaborate, and Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora reportedly played a major role in the operation.

Cora was Houston manager A.J. Hinch's right-hand man as the Astros' bench coach in 2017, winning the World Series with the organization. So, quite frankly, it's not surprising that Cora was involved in the matter.

This trade last winter offers parallels to what Sox could do with Betts

Major League Baseball now is investigating the Astros organization, as well as anyone involved with the team in 2017—A.K.A. Cora and current New York Mets manager Carlos Beltran. Cora was interviewed Wednesday, and the Red Sox are offering the MLB "full cooperation" in the ongoing investigation, according to Jason Mastrodonato of the Boston Herald.

According to sources, the Red Sox really only need to be concerned with the matter if Cora used some of those tactics to lead Boston to a World Series Championship in 2018, and throughout the duration of a rather upsetting 2019 season.

It remains unknown if Cora

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—Major League Baseball general managers slowly trickled out through the resort courtyard late Thursday morning to catch rides to the airport, talking and laughing with one another, giving their best Thanksgiving wishes, and promising to catch up on the phone.

One GM stood off to the side, obscured by the tall bushes toward the check-in desk, not talking to a soul.

Jeff Luhnow, general manager of the Houston Astros, was the man everyone was talking about at these annual general manager meetings, but for all of the wrong reasons.

There may be 30 different agendas at these meetings, but this time virtually all were united on one front.

They want to see the Astros go down.

And go down hard.

They want the Astros to pay a fortune in penalties, being fined a record amount of

GMs demand stern punishment for Astros

money, forfeiting draft picks, international signing bonuses, and two even said they wish MLB would force them to vacate the 2017 World Series title.

Over the last two days of the GM meetings, USA TODAY Sports spoke to 14 executives from around the league about the allegations made against the Astros. They requested anonymity because MLB instructed them not to publicly discuss the potential offenses.

"They've been cheating, they still are cheating, and it's time MLB puts a stop to it," one National League GM said. "Come on, they won 60 games at home this year. Look at their numbers when guys are on base (MLB-best .282 average) since 2017. The banging of garbage cans and pipes (as a way to convey signs). The whistles. Everything.

"It's one thing to steal signs with your eyes. We all do that. It's another to do it electronically, and that's what they've been doing. This tarnishes everything they've done. There should be a huge asterisk next to their World Series title."

The Los Angeles Dodgers, who lost to the Astros in seven games in the 2017 World Series, are convinced more than ever that the Astros cheated. They closely reviewed tapes of Yu Darvish's starts in Game 3 and Game 7. He was rocked in both starts, lasting just 1½ innings in each start, yielding a 21.60 ERA in the World Series. He faced a total of 22 batters and didn't have a single strikeout, generating only four swing-and-misses out of his 96 pitches, and had a .474 batting average against.

The Dodgers knew something was amiss and heard

the Astros boasting after the World Series that Darvish was tipping his pitches. Darvish acknowledged the same during the winter.

One problem.

The Dodgers, after studying the video, said there are no signs at all that Darvish tipped his pitches. They couldn't find a single time when he openly displayed a tendency to let the Astros know what pitch was coming.

"They would do it in different ways," one executive said. "If they weren't banging on the pipes, they would disguise it by yelling out from the dugout. If they called your first name, it was a fastball. If they called you by your last name, it was a breaking ball.

"And there's no way they could pick that up unless they had a live feed off the TV cameras."

The Astros have won 100 games each of the past three seasons.

The league has launched an investigation in which it plans to speak to former and current Astros players. Oakland Athletics starter Mike Fiers, who played for the Astros in 2017, told The Athletic that the Astros had a secret center field camera stealing signs.

New York Mets manager Carlos Beltran, who played for the Astros in 2017, insists that the Astros did nothing against the rules. Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora, who was the bench coach on Houston manager A.J. Hinch's 2017 staff, has publicly declined to comment.

"I think people have always been suspicious of different ways teams get signs," Tigers GM Al Avila said. "I remember when Justin Verlander

was pitching for us, he was always very aware of things that might be going on. Chris Sale got upset thinking guys were getting signs from center field. This stuff has been going on forever.

"All we want is a level playing field, that's all. You can steal signs, but you can't do it by electronic means. MLB has made that very clear."

Said Yankees GM Brian Cashman: "I don't think it's a technological question as much as how you want to operate. You decide to play by the rules or you don't. And if you don't, there's consequences. You're putting yourself at risk whether it's future employment, current employment or sanctions or what have you."

It's unknown whether MLB will find the Astros guilty of using electronic equipment to steal signs, but the allegations alone has the baseball world furious.

Loaded Harden leads Rockets' rout of T-Wolves



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Undermanned and playing for the second consecutive night, the Houston Rockets still had plenty of reason to be confident.

"I would think it would give you confidence," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "You're playing with a bazooka out there."

A bazooka named James Harden.

Harden unloaded Saturday night, scoring 49 points on a whopping 41 shots from the field to lead the short-handed Rockets to their seventh straight victory, 125-105 over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

With Russell Westbrook resting and several key contributors injured, the Rockets needed Harden to shoulder an even bigger scoring load than usual. The 41 attempts are the most in his career, and the most in the NBA this season, surpassing the 37 Golden State's D'Angelo Russell took in an overtime loss Nov. 8 in the same building in Minnesota.

"It was a collective effort," Harden said. "We've got six, seven guys out. So it could have been an easy game, where we just chalked it up and got ready for next game. We wanted to come here and win this game, and we showed it."

Harden made 16 of the 41 shots, going 8 for 22 from 3-point range. He was 9 of 11 on free throws.

"He scored (49) on 41 shots," Timberwolves forward Robert Covington said. "That's what we want. But it's just the other guys hurt us. We followed the game plan with him."

Ben McLemore scored 20 points. Undrafted rookie Chris Clemons scored a career-high 19 off the bench for the Rockets, who broke open the game with a 9-0 run in the fourth quarter. Austin Rivers also scored 19 points.

In addition to Westbrook, the Rockets were without center Clint Capela, guards Eric Gordon and Gerald Green, and forward Danuel House Jr. And they were playing the second game of a back-to-back following Friday night's win over Indiana in Houston.

"There was a lot of heart," D'Antoni said. "I think that's what we're more excited about, just the heart and the effort and what went into playing a back-to-back. That's a character win."

Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 15 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who also were short-handed. Andrew Wiggins missed his second consecutive game for personal reasons.

Jake Layman made his first start of the season for Minnesota and scored a season-



high 21 points. Covington had 17 points.

"I'm a no-excuse person," Timberwolves coach Ryan Saunders said. "Who's on the court is on the court. But we have to do more things to make teams like that uncomfortable. James Harden is a heck of a player. He's one of the best scorers you'll ever see. And he took 41 shots. I thought we made him work for some of them. But some of them, we didn't."

Harden scored 18 of his 30 first-half points in the first quarter. It was his highest-scoring first quarter of the season. Harden took 17 of his team's first 25 shots.

Trail Blazers 121, Spurs 116

In San Antonio, CJ McCollum scored 32 points and Portland beat the Spurs to spoil Tim Duncan's first shot at coaching following Gregg Popovich's ejection.

Popovich was ejected after walking onto the court to berate official Jason Goldenberg over a non-call. Popovich calmly walked off the court following his first ejection of the season.

The Spurs responded with Duncan and fellow assistants Becky Hammon and Will Hardy coaching by committee, but it was Duncan calling the plays and screaming out instruction.

Damian Lillard added 22 points and Hassan Whiteside had 21 for Portland.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points and 13 rebounds. Spurs. They've lost five straight.

Bucks 102, Pacers 83

In Indianapolis, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points, 13 rebounds and six assists and Milwaukee forced Indiana into its worst shooting performance of the season.

Brook Lopez added 15 points and eight rebounds. He had blocked five shots as the Pacers shot a season-low 32% from the field.

Milwaukee, 9-3 despite a road-heavy schedule to start the season, shot 45%. Donte DiVincenzo added 14 points.

Myles Turner, playing his first game since Oct. 30, had

16 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for Indiana.

Mavericks 110, Raptors 102

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 26 points and 15 rebounds in the Mavericks' victory over Toronto.

Doncic scored nine points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks added to a one-point lead. He made all seven free throws in the quarter and finished with a career-best 15 free throws in 19 attempts.

Delon Wright finished with

15 points, and banked in a fadeaway with 5 seconds left in the third quarter to send Dallas into the fourth quarter with a 78-77 edge. Wright added six points in the fourth quarter.

Kristaps Porzingis had 20 points and matched his career best with 15 rebounds for Dallas.

Norman Powell scored a season-high 26 points for Toronto.

Heat 109, Pelicans 94

In Miami, Kendrick Nunn scored 22 points and the Heat

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) shoots on against Minnesota Timberwolves guard Keita Bates-Diop in the third quarter during an NBA game Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 in Minneapolis.

beat New Orleans to remain unbeaten at home.

Bam Adebayo had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Jimmy Butler added 16 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds. Miami is 5-0 at home and 9-3 overall —tying the best 12-game start in team history.

Nickell Alexander-Walker made six 3-pointers and had 27 points for New Orleans.

Nets 117, Bulls 111

In Chicago, Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points and Brooklyn beat Chicago without All-Star guard Kyrie Irving to snap a three-game losing streak.

Irving entered Saturday sixth in the NBA with 28.5 points per game but sat with a right shoulder injury. The short-handed Nets are also without Caris LeVert, who's recovering from right thumb surgery.

Zach LaVine scored 36 points for Chicago.

Hornets 103, Knicks 102

In New York, Devonte' Graham made his ninth 3-pointer with 2.8 seconds remaining and had 29 points to lead Charlotte past the Knicks.

P.J. Washington scored 19 points, Terry Rozier had 16 and Marvin Williams added 13.

RJ Barrett scored 22 points for the Knicks.

USMNT faces more work after win over Canada

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—ORLANDO —In the lead-up to Friday's must-win CONCACAF Nations League contest against Canada, members of the United States men's national team weren't naive to the negativity surrounding the program. Not after losing three of their last five games, and especially not after Les Rouges defeated them in October—the USMNT's worst defeat since failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup—for the first time in more than three decades.

Almost as much as three points, the USMNT needed to make a statement in the rematch. They did, routing the Canadians 4-1 at Exploria Stadium despite playing without injured Chelsea star Christian Pulisic and at least three other surefire starters.

"In a world like we live in today it's hard to not be aware

of that kind of stuff," admitted U.S. winger Jordan Morris, who sent the Americans on their way to a 4-1 win with a well-taken goal less than two minutes into the game, before he set up the first of Gyasi Zardes' two tallies later in the opening half.

The early strike stunned the Canadians. It also helped settled whatever nerves the hosts came in with, if there were any at all. For it was clear, even in the seconds before Morris converted Sergino Dest's corner kick, that Gregg Berhalter's team had come to play.

The most damning part of the October defeat in Toronto was that the U.S. was out-competed all over the field. If nothing else, the U.S. was hellbent on making sure that that wasn't going to be repeated on a misty night in

central Florida.

"That's what we wanted to do, to press high, to be aggressive," said veteran defender John Brooks, finally healthy and making his first national team appearance since March. "Especially in the first half, [it] showed."

The fight was apparent, too.

"You need to show the type of effort and type of tenacity that the group showed today," Berhalter said. "There was some real big criticism on the group. It was a perceived lack of effort [in Toronto], lack of heart. You couldn't mention that today at all, the way the guys were fighting for each other."

The pressure on Berhalter was real. U.S. Soccer sporting director Earnie Stewart gave his manager the dreaded vote of confidence

earlier in the week. But Berhalter showed plenty of guts by starting Zardes and young midfielder Jackson Yueill, who had hardly played since the MLS regular season ended on Oct. 6, over German Bundesliga regulars Josh Sargent and Alfredo Morales. The move paid off handsomely, with both players turning in superb performances in a match the Americans simply had to have.

Berhalter's team also displayed a pragmatism that had been missing through much of his almost 12 months at the U.S. helm. They took what their opponent gave them in this one, content to let Canada, which also needed a win to climb the FIFA rankings and qualify for the final "Hexagonal" round of 2022 World Cup qualifying, keep the ball and chase the game with the home side looking to beat them in transition.



No Big 3 in ATP Finals: Tsitsipas vs Thiem

LONDON (AP)—The first time Dominic Thiem played at the ATP Finals, he was handed an unknown Greek teenager as a hitting partner in training.

Three years later, Thiem is facing that same player in the final of the season-ending tournament.

Thiem beat defending champion Alexander Zverev in the semifinals on Saturday after Stefanos Tsitsipas ousted six-time winner Roger Federer, setting up a title match between two players who first met each other at the O2 Arena under very different circumstances.

"I just saw a picture before that I practiced with him the first time I played here 2016," Thiem said after beating Zverev 7-5, 6-3. "He was a hitting partner here. It's an amazing story for both of us. ... We didn't think that only three years later we were going to face each other in the final."

The now 21-year-old Tsitsipas had the most eye-catching win on Saturday, saving 11 of 12 break points to beat Federer 6-3, 6-4. He also took advantage of an error-filled performance from Federer, who continually put his opponent under pressure only to come up short when it mattered.

"I'm proud of myself, how hard I fought today, how concentrated I stayed in the breakpoints," said Tsitsipas, who reached the biggest final of his career. "Didn't crack under pressure. I was very composed and very mature in my decisions."

In the evening match, Zverev double-faulted on set point to hand Thiem a 1-0 lead



and was then broken for the second time to make it 4-2 in the second set.

Thiem saved two break points in the next game to hold for 5-2, and then served out the match on his first attempt, clinching the victory with a forehand winner on match point.

The final pairing also ensures that the tournament will have a first-time champion for the fourth year in a row.

Federer and Novak Djokovic combined to win the ATP Finals nine times in 10 years between 2006-15 before Andy Murray broke that streak and Gregor Dimitrov won it in 2017.

Zverev was trying to repeat last year's title win but couldn't convert any of the four break points he forced against Thiem. As he sat down for the changeover after his double-fault to end the first set, he slammed his racket down so hard it bounced along the court and came to rest behind the baseline.

He was also frustrated with the way he gave away a cheap break in the second set.

"I broke myself. I missed two overheads one meter away from the net," Zverev said. "It was just a bad game. Yeah, the match was over a few

later, so what can I do?"

Thiem beat both Federer and Djokovic in the group stage just to reach the semifinals for the first time in four attempts at the tournament.

Tsitsipas, who is making his first appearance at the event, saved all six break points he faced against Federer in the first set. That included two at 5-3, when he needed seven set points before finally winning a marathon game.

He broke again for a 2-1 lead in the second, then saved three break points from 0-40 in the next game before Federer finally converted his fourth

to level the set.

But Tsitsipas broke again straight away with a forehand winner and then saved two more break points from 15-40 down when serving for the match at 5-4.

He didn't give the 38-year-old Federer any more chances of a comeback, serving out the match with an ace.

"No doubt I had my chances," Federer said. "I'm just frustrated I couldn't play better. And when I did and fought my way back, I threw it away again."

The 17-year age gap between the two players was the largest in the history of the tournament.

For Federer, it was a surprisingly erratic performance after he played near-flawless tennis to beat Djokovic in straight sets on Thursday to reach the semifinals.

He finished that match with five unforced errors—including two double-faults—but had 26 in this match.

Federer was especially unhappy with the service break in the first set, when he also missed two fairly routine overheads to gift his opponent the early lead.

"Getting broken with missing two smashes in one game, that hasn't happened in a long, long time. Or ever," Federer said. "So that was tough."



RIVERDALE, Ga. (AP)—

Colin Kaepernick's saga took another surreal turn

Saturday—a last-minute audible to nix an NFL-arranged workout and a quick dash 60 miles to the other side of metro Atlanta, where the exiled quarterback staged his own impromptu passing display on a high school field in dwindling light as hundreds of fans cheered him on from behind a chain-link fence.

Kaepernick threw passes for about 40 minutes at Charles Drew High School and spent nearly that long signing autographs for a crowd that steadily grew as word spread that a quarterback who led the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl and sparked a wave of protests and divisive debate by kneeling during the national anthem was in the neighborhood.

Kaepernick declared again

Kaepernick back to school for workout

that he's ready to play in the NFL.

If someone will just give him a chance.

"I've been ready for three years," he said. "I've been denied for three years. We all know why. I came out here today and showed it in front of everybody. We have nothing to hide. We're waiting for the 32 owners, the 32 teams, (Commissioner) Roger Goodell, all of them to stop running, stop running from the truth, stop running from the people."

In a move no one saw coming, the league that Kaepernick claims blackballed him called Tuesday with a take-it-or-leave-it offer to hold an extraordinary workout at the Atlanta Falcons' training complex in the sprawling suburbs north of the city.

All 32 teams were invited. Former NFL head coaches Hue Jackson and Joe Philbin

were set to run the drills. The league said 25 teams were sending scouts and representatives—many of whom had already arrived at the Falcons' indoor training facility in Flowery Branch when word came that Kaepernick wasn't going to take part.

Instead, he decided to hold a workout open to the media, unlike the session at the Falcons' facility, at a high school stadium just south of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Sixty miles away.

With barely more than an hour to spare, the media that had been herded into a gated-off area in the parking lot and told that was as close as they would get to Kaepernick's workout hustled to their vehicles to set off for a high school most had never heard of.

But only eight of the original 25 team representatives

followed along to the new location, including Philadelphia Eagles vice president of football operations Andrew Berry. It appeared the New York Jets, Kansas City and Washington also had scouts in attendance.

They stood along the sideline, jotting into their notepads as Kaepernick tossed passes to four free-agent receivers.

"Our biggest thing with everything today was to make sure we had transparency in what went on," Kaepernick said. "We weren't getting that elsewhere, so we came out here."

Kaepernick, who worked out in a tank top and shorts, has clearly kept himself in good shape during his near three-year layoff. His passes had plenty of zip on them, though he was a bit off target with a few of his deep throws. It was not the sort of session that would likely sway a team one way or the other.

That didn't appear to be the point.

Kaepernick has insisted all along that everyone knows he is good enough to play in the NFL. He claims this is all about his decision to kneel as a way of protesting police brutality and racial injustice, which led to a contentious national debate that stretched all the way to the White House. President Trump called on NFL owners to fire any player who failed to stand during the national anthem.

"We're ready to go anywhere," said Kaepernick, who at age 32 should be in the prime of his career. "Ready to talk to any team, interview with any team at any time. I've been ready, I'm staying ready, I will continue to be ready."

Kaepernick did not take questions from at least 50 media members who scrambled to get to Riverdale to cover his workout.

The quarterback's representatives announced the change less than an hour before the start of the originally scheduled workout, saying the NFL refused their request that journalists be allowed to watch and videotape the session in Flowery Branch.

When he finally got on the field, Kaepernick threw passes to receivers Bruce Ellington, Brice Butler, Jordan Veasy and Ari Werts.

Former 49ers teammate Eric Reid, who joined Kaepernick in his kneeling protest and a collusion lawsuit against the league, watched the session from a bench on the sideline.

Reid, who is now a safety for the Carolina Panthers, left the workout about halfway through to get back to Charlotte. His team, in an interesting twist, hosts a game against the Falcons on Sunday.

"I think there could be a positive outcome," Veasy said. "At the end of the day, any progress is good progress."

Joeten 1 ousts Triple J to reach finals

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joeten 1 took the first finals seat after pulling off an 87-83

overtime win over Triple J in Game 2 of their semis series in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the

Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Vincent Teregeyo, Ernest Duenas, K.J. Kabiriel, Tom Augustin, and Chris Lilles

teamed up in the extra period to help Joeten 1 sweep the best-of-three series and advance to the championship round.



ended with Joeten on top, 20-10. Four other Joeten 1 players scored in the opening canto to give the team early control of the game.

Joeten 1 continued to spread the wealth in the second period, while Cobacha started to wax hot from downtown and his triples (three) in that quarter allowed Triple J to cut the deficit to 5 at the break, 36-41.

Cobacha was still in a zone from beyond the arc in the third frame, adding three more triples, but a basket from Kabiriel helped Joeten 1 cling to a shaky lead, 58-57, going into the fourth quarter.

In the final canto, Cobacha was held to one trey, but it's a big one, as his long shot sent the

game into overtime. Bryan Santos also helped triple J extend the game after scoring 14 of his 27 points in the fourth period.

However, Triple J still fell short in the end, as it struggled in overtime, while Joeten 1 had multiple players stepping up to march to the finals against the winner of the Top Development, Inc.-RNV/Best Deal semis series.

Joeten 1 87—Lilles 15, Teregeyo 15, Kabiriel 12, Lauron 10, Augustin 10, Sambile 8, Duenas 7, Maratita 6, Rotap 2.

Triple J 83—Cobacha 27, Santos 27, Abobo 15, Vivero 6, Jarabe 2, Sager 2, Obnimaga 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-10, 41-36, 58-57, 78-78, 87-83 (OT).

Schmidt wins regular season MVP award

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Vegas' do-it-all player Douglas Schmidt was named regular season most valuable player in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League during a brief awards ceremony last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Schmidt took the highest individual award in the inaugural league after getting 49.4 statistical points, which were based on the player's overall statistics (combined points, rebounds, assists, and steals) team record, coaches' votes, and Player of the Game honors. He led the league in assists (7.3 average per game) and steals (7.4) and also posted impressive numbers in scoring (15.8 points per game) and rebounds (7.5) and helped Saipan Vegas to a perfect 9-0 record in the elimination round.

The former national team player beat his teammate, Coby Santos, for the coveted MVP plum, as the latter registered 46.2 SPs. Both Schmidt and Santos made it to the Mythical Team Selection, joining IT&E's Errol Peredo (35.8 SPs), The Game's Mak Mintac (43.5), and Mystique Grillers' Jetzen Jandoc (44.2).

Atkins Kroll vice president and general manager Clark Boswell, with the assistance



Regular season MVP Douglas Schmidt, left, of Saipan Vegas challenges the defense of IT&E's Gerald Flores during Game 1 of their finals series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

of MIBL officials, handed the MVP trophy to Schmidt and other



awardees last weekend. Besides earning a spot on the elite Mythical Five Selection, Mintac was also named the scoring champion after his average of 28.9 points per game. TanHoldings' Michael Torregosa was handed the Board Master trophy for averaging 12.8 rebounds per

match, while Bridge Capital's Eric Deleon Guerrero took the Swat Chief award for having the most blocks

(10) in the regular season. All the awards received gift certificates and in-kind donations from the following MIBL sponsors: AK Toyota, Aqua Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, The Game, Saipan Vegas, Caravan's, and Bridge Capital.



Joeten 1's Vincent Teregeyo, right, drives baseline against Triple J's Ian Obnimaga during Game 2 of their semis series in the JP World caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

TWIN

From Page 28

rin played with Hong. The tandem of Sikkell and Kim cruised to a 6-0, 6-3 victory to top the girls U14 doubles competition, as the duo was wrapped up the round-robin contest unbeaten. Kim and Sikkell's other win was against Irin Chung and Hoo Wang last Saturday, 6-0, 6-3.

Irin and Wang finished second in the division, as it also downed Serin and Hong in their Saturday duel, 6-1, 4-6, 10-6.

Meanwhile, Lina Tsukagoshi and Irin Chung were crowned champions in the other girls singles events in the TanHoldings Tennis Classic.

The No. 1 seed Tsukagoshi lived up to expectations after dominating No. 2 Eun Been Hwang, 6-1, in their girls U10 singles finals showdown yesterday at the Fiesta court.



Savita Sikkell, right, exchange high-fives with Helen Kim after scoring a point against Serin Chung and Sei Yul Hong in the girls U14 doubles game in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

Tsukagoshi made it to the title game after outclassing Anne Lee in the semis last Saturday, 6-3, while the latter earned the right to challenge the former for a finals ticket following a 6-1 victory over Jeong Bin Park, 6-1. Hwang, on the other hand, pulled off a 7-6 (6) win against Ellie Cho to march into the finale. Lee joined Tsukagoshi and Hwang in the podium after topping Cho in the third place game, 6-3.

In the girls U12 singles, Irin Chung posted a 3-0 record in the round-robin contest, capping her perfect mark with a 6-3, 6-1 title-clinching win over Hoo Hwang yesterday. Irin's two other victories were against Anna Kwon, 6-3, 6-1, and Hannah Chae (walkover).

Irin also played in the doubles with Hoo Hwang and they prevailed in the head-to-head matchup against Chae and Kwon, 6-3, 6-2.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

up with Saipan Vegas' offensive firepower. Only Elmer Esdreleon scored more than two baskets in the entire first half, as Errol Peredo and Darwin Barbo, who were on target in their semis sweep against MS Villagomez, combined for only 5 markers in the first 20 minutes of play. IT&E's bench could not get the job done either and the team clearly missed one of its gunners, Jaymark De Guzman, who was off-island and could not suit up for his squad in the opener.

Sans De Guzman and with its effective balance offense on shaky grounds, IT&E did not stand a chance against Saipan Vegas, which continued its domination in the second half.

When the game resumed, Basa also regained his touch, as he added 8 more points, while Santos made 9 to keep Saipan Vegas' double-digit

lead, 69-54, going into the final quarter.

In the fourth frame, Basa finished off IT&E, as he buried three triples to end the match with a game-high 28. Santos added 21, while Atan also had double figures after firing 16.

Elmer Esdreleon paced IT&E with his 16 points, while Barbo and Gerald Flores tallied 11 apiece, but got their baskets when the game was already decided. Jack Aranda who made 22 points in their two semis wins over MS Villagomez, was held to 4, while Sean Rabasto was scoreless in the finals opener.

Saipan Vegas 91—P. Basa 28, Santos 21, Atan 16, Libuw 7, Schmidt 6, Bondoc 6, Lizama 3, Kabiriel 2, E. Basa 2.

IT&E 69—Esdreleon 16, Flores 11, Barbo 11, Devero 9, Guiab 6, Peredo 5, Aranda 4, Rafols 3, Demapan 2, Talania 1.

Scoring by quarters: 28-15, 48-28, 69-54, 91-69.



Paper trail
on Astros'
alleged sign-
stealing
scheme
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Loaded
Harden leads
Rockets' rout
of T-Wolves

PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Twin titles for Kim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Junior Tennis Team member Helen Kim bagged a pair of titles in the opening week of the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic held at the various courts on Saipan.

Kim, who represented the Commonwealth to the 2019 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championships in Fiji last summer, first secured the girls U14 singles crown after earning an unbeaten record in three games. She started her singles title bid with a straight set victory over Savita Sikkel, 6-2, 6-0, last Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court. Kim next faced Sei Yul Hong and eased to a 6-0, 6-0 triumph last Saturday, also at the Hyatt court.

For her final game, Kim also took only two sets to finish the competition with a perfect re-



cord, however, both games were hotly contested with the eventual champion eking out a 7-5, 7-5 victory against Serin Chung yesterday morning at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court. Chung earlier prevailed over Hong, 6-2, 6-0, and Sikkel, 6-1, 6-2, before losing to Kim to settle for the runner-up honors.

After her title-deciding win over Chung, Kim returned to the Fiesta court in the afternoon and the singles finalists squared off anew. Kim was with Sikkel, while Se-

See TWIN on Page 27

Saipan Vegas takes finals opener

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Vegas Aces clobbered IT&E 91-69, in Game 1 of the finals series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

What was anticipated as a close game turned out to be one-sided, as Saipan Vegas came out more prepared in the opener of the best-of-three title series to move one win away from

clinching the championship. Saipan Vegas was aiming to finish the series last night, as it battled IT&E in Game 2, but results of the match were available at press time.

Preston Basa, who knocked in the game-winning triple in Saipan Vegas' thrilling victory over IT&E in the regular season, again punished their rival with his impressive outside shooting. Basa peppered IT&E with six triples, as he anchored Saipan Vegas' strong



start. He scored 8 points in the first quarter, while Douglas Schmidt, Coby Santos, and Aiferson Atan combined for 18 markers to lift Saipan Vegas to a 28-15 lead.

In the second quarter, Basa was held to 3 points, but his teammates stepped up, as Saipan Vegas increased the advantage to 20 at the break, 48-28.

IT&E faced a huge deficit in the first half, as it could not keep

See SAIPAN on Page 27



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Saipan Vegas' Preston Basa takes off for a layup in front of four IT&E players during Game 1 of their finals series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Training for busy people

One afternoon prior to their training session, I sat down with both of them. Their unbridled enthusiasm was starting to fade once they fully understood the direction they were going was not the way we had originally planned. You just can't expect to make meaningful, enduring changes without a measure of discomfort. That goes without saying.

In an attempt to justify their series of slipups, one of them asked, "Do you think I'm in starvation mode?" I didn't bother to give her a smarty-pants explanation because I realized she didn't know any better. Nonetheless, her ill attempt to cop a plea didn't pan out.

If you're counting on seeing results after having only done two weeks worth of training, you're delusional.

Q: With kids and a full-time job, the only time I can workout is around lunch. What's the best workout I can do to ensure I stay consistent?

A: Take a step back and have some perspective. If time is of the essence or

Ask **DRE:**

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



you're bogged down from work, make the most out of it. Remember, what constitutes busy is different for everybody. Some have more baggage than others and if all you can spare is 15-20 minutes, just get it done. Do a full-body strength circuit.

Combine exercises like split squats, deadlifts, pushups, rows, and plank variations. There's also utility in machine-based workouts. Done well three times a week does the job of promoting the positive adaptations we want without having to spend hours in the gym.

Q: I want to make sure I get this right. The amount of carbs I eat depends on

my level of activity? Just to clarify, I don't really know how to diet.

A: Precisely. To be fair, most people don't know how to eat. With so many diet camps pulling us in different directions, it's hard to pluck out the big rocks. Your body is much more responsive to carbohydrates during and after training. You don't have to get crazy with it, though. Remember, too much of anything has its drawbacks. A serving of a fruit of your choice, one slice of toast, or a cup of rice should suffice.

General rule of thumb: dial it back on non-training days or where your activity level is low.